

liability, either by the company's $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (American experience) standard, or the Government $4\frac{1}{2}$ Hm. standard, making the comparison of surplus for 1890 and 1889 at this time impossible. This, however, is of less consequence from the fact that the known surplus is far beyond what is required for safety, whichever of the above standards are applied. The uniformly low death rate of the Canada Life has heretofore called for favorable comment, and the experience of the past year, though the rate was considerably higher than before, is still a very moderate one for a year when the fatalities from *la Grippe* and the age of the company are considered. The total assets at the close of the year amounted to \$11,032,440, making the increase, as compared with the previous year, over half a million, or \$551,969. The position and prospects of the company never were so good as at present, all things considered, with its ample resources, equipped with its fine office building at Hamilton, and with its elegant new building at Toronto, and with very favorable connections formed for an enlarged business in the States. With reference to the latter, we quote a paragraph from the remarks of President Ramsay, made at the annual meeting:—

The favorable results of our new arrangements in the State of Michigan are alluded to in the report, and as our experience there indicates that the company's sound position and the advantages which it offers are attracting the attention of American assurers, we hope we are warranted in looking for such a measure of success as may possibly at some future time induce the directors to consider the propriety of offering the company's advantages in other places. You will be glad to know that the present year's business upon which we are engaged is thus far of a very favorable and encouraging character, and the death claims at present very largely under those of the same date last year; so that, with the rather better rates of interest obtainable, we have every reason for looking forward to a continuance of the company's past success.

The business and prospects of the company in this Province, under the skilful management of Mr. J. W. Marling, fully justify the above hopeful view; and that the entire field, under the able direction of President Ramsay, will be covered so as to result in an increased success for the current year, we do not doubt.

MORTALITY OF ENGLISH CLERGYMEN.

As mentioned in our issue of March 14, we have received from the directors of the "Clergy Mutual" a report on the mortality experience of the society from 1829 to 1887, compiled by Mr. Frank B. Wyatt, the able actuary of the office, with a report on the medical history of the society during the same period, by Dr. W. H. Stone, the physician to the society; and we must congratulate these gentlemen on the production of a very interesting and valuable contribution to the vital statistics of the present time. The results of Mr. Wyatt's investigations confirm in a remarkable degree the indications we already possess as to the extremely light mortality prevailing amongst the clergy as compared with the general population. This was shown in the tables published in 1864 by the Rev. J. Hodgson (the founder of this society), from his observations on the lives of the clergy, the "expectation of life" or "mean after lifetime" of this class being at age 25, nearly 5 years longer than is given by the "English

Life Table, No. 3 Males;" at age 40, 3 years longer; and at age 55, over a year and a half longer. These observations were made on the lives of clergymen "unselected" as to medical examination. The present tables being derived from assured lives of clergymen may more fairly be compared with the Institute Hm. Tables, also derived from assured lives; and here again the superiority of the clergy lives is very apparent, the "expectations," according to the society's experience, being at age 25 more than $5\frac{1}{2}$ years longer than by the Hm.; at 40, nearly 4 years longer; and at 55, more than 2 years longer.

The tables are numerous, and show the results of investigations into the mortality amongst the three classes of lives of which the society's *clientèle* consists—viz., clergy, lay and female. Of these the numbers entering were respectively 7,050, 1,100 and 520. The results are also combined so as to form the general experience. The numbers in the two latter classes are too small to afford reliable data, but so far as they go the figures derived from them support the previous conclusions as to the greater vitality of the clerical lives. Whenever a fresh investigation shall be made into the mortality of assured lives generally, there will be a much larger basis from which to ascertain the value of female assured life than when the Hf. tables were published by the Institute of Actuaries, as, owing to the married women's property act and the great increase in the number of occupations for women, the proportion of female assurers is, we believe, considerably greater now in all offices than it was twenty or twenty five years ago.

Mr. Wyatt has also given a table of the experience as to "unhealthy lives"—i. e., those on which an extra premium was charged on account of some defect in personal health or family history. The numbers observed upon were 355, and the deaths 71, against 61, the number expected according to the general experience. The "rating up" appears to be justified by the result, but here again the numbers are scarcely large enough for practical conclusions to be drawn.

Dr. Stone's analysis of the causes of death amongst the assured is interesting. It is cheering to observe that he considers the 112 deaths from phthisis, out of 2,119 in all, to be really insignificant, and speaks of it as "this hitherto over-dreaded hereditary cause of disease." Cancer again, he is of opinion, from twenty years experience at St. Thomas' hospital, is not increasing in frequency, as supposed. It is somewhat startling to find so many deaths from violence among a body of men living such peaceful lives as the clergy enjoy, twenty-nine having met their death by accident, ten by drowning, two murdered, and no fewer than seventeen by suicide. The latter appears a very heavy record; the others may, perhaps, be partly accounted for by the supposition that the society numbers many missionaries, naval chaplains, etc., on its books. As a set-off to this chapter of horrors, it may be noted that "a very large percentage of the assured have hitherto died from what is approximately a natural sequence of old age."—*Insurance Post, Eng.*

We notice that somebody has introduced a bill in the provincial legislature of Ontario, to empower municipal councils to insure the property of taxpayers. Why not authorize municipalities to sell sugar, coffee, and sausages?

The New York Fire insurance company adds another to the list of small companies lately retiring from the contest. It was organized in 1832, has a capital stock, paid up, of \$200,000, and assets amounting to \$328,844 with \$15,000 of net surplus. Its risks have been re-insured in the Home.