

The *Weekly Statement* says that the fraternal organization known as the Knights of Honor have decreased 5,689 members from January 1, 1885, to January 1, 1888.—The Knights of Pythias, Endowment Rank, a brotherhood conducting insurance upon the assessment plan, have 9,894 less certificates in force than four years ago.—The Illinois Masons' Benefit Society of Princeton, Illinois, have lost 1,563 certificate holders in three years.

The board of directors of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company have declared a semi-annual dividend upon the capital stock at the rate of twelve per cent. per annum.

The Manchester (Eng.) *Insurance News* thinks that "the vast scheme of compulsory insurance now being carried out in Germany will undoubtedly prove to be one of the most interesting social experiments which has ever been tried. It is doubtful whether any more potent influence towards the suppression of what is called socialism could have been called into being. The seething discontent which prevails so extensively among the working classes, more especially on the Continent, seems to arise principally from the hopelessness of their future outlook. Nothing is more likely to secure stability to the State and contentment to the subject than the assurance that when accident, disease, or age has taken away the ability to toil there will be forthcoming a modest but certain provision for the remainder of life."

Although the Fire Insurance Association retires from business in the United States, it will continue its business in Canada, where the results of the last two years, although not showing any particular amount of profit, yet show greater signs of amendment than in the United States. This is from the *London Review*, which adds: "The percentage of losses to premiums of the Fire Insurance Association for the Canadian business was very high in 1887, being 91.90 per cent., as against 63.75 in 1886. The average rate of premiums per 1,000 seems to have been reduced last year to 1.09 from 1.21 in the previous year, but the gross amount of business done is undoubtedly capable of considerable improvement, and can be reduced to a paying state. We think the association wise in remaining in Canada, and can only repeat what we said in our last issue, that when it does go back to the United States, it will 'come to stay,' with profit to itself, and satisfaction to its American policy-holders."

MANUFACTURERS' NOTES.

The aggregate production of cement from natural rock last year in the United States was 6,692,744 barrels, valued at 77½ cents per barrel, making \$5,186,877 as the value of the year's product.

A droll effort to turn back the hands on the clock of Time is that made by the Knights of Labor in the United States. That body has, according to the *Chicago Journal of Commerce* of last week, a bill in Washington to abolish the steam printing machines in use in the Treasury Department for about ten years, obliging the Government to go back to the hand system.

At the Cincinnati Centennial Exhibition, we are told, a gas engine made in Chicago, and named the "Little Wonder," attracts much attention. It is described as the first ever constructed with a rotary valve. A successful oscillating valve has hitherto been supposed impracticable on a gas engine. The "Little Wonder" proves the contrary, says the *Journal*. "Its mechanical simplicity is astonishing.

The only working parts being a cylinder, crank-shaft, fly-wheel, eccentric, and valve, anyone can light it; give the balance wheel a turn and away she goes. No fire, no fuel, no ashes, dust, or smoke; no gauges to watch, no burning out or explosion of boiler; no valves to set, no engineer, no adjustment, no danger. The cost of running is claimed to be 10 to 25 cents per day, according to amount of work and price of gas. The sizes are from one-horse-power upwards."

The railway tunnel between Port Huron and Point Edward is going on. A New York firm recently delivered to the Grand Trunk Railway forty-eight 125-ton, high-pressure, hydraulic cylinders, for use in tunnelling the St. Clair river at above point. Each of these machines has rear cylinders for withdrawing the ram.

PROPER AND IMPROPER COLONIAL EXPERIENCE.

It is, perhaps, the fate of all countries, young or old, colonies or otherwise, to be injured, so far as such unreasonable fault-finding can prejudice them, by complaints of immigrants who do not find things just as they have been accustomed to have them, or who have no ability to adapt themselves to changed circumstances. An instance of such untimely fault-finding is thus rebuked by *The Colonies and India*, in its "Hints for Emigrants":

B. B., GLASGOW.—Your brother appears to have been very foolish. He should have husbanded his money better when he reached the Colonies. He seems to have made the not uncommon mistake with "new chums" of imagining that colonial experience is to be picked up leaning against a tavern bar counter in Sydney or Melbourne, and drinking Colonial "tangle-foot." Your brother's B.A. degree may of course become of great assistance to him in the Colonies, but he may as well stick to the billiard marking for a while longer. Or if he could get a job at bullock-driving, it would do him more good perhaps, as he could learn some Colonial experience at that.

THE LICENSING PROBLEM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

It is not without significance that at a recent meeting of the Victoria Board of Trade the liquor licensing question was discussed. The president, Robert Ward, J. P., informed the board that at a recent meeting of council the question of the existing system of granting and regulating liquor licenses within the province, had been under discussion, and he had been requested to bring the matter to the notice of the board. In his opinion there was certainly ample scope for amending the existing system, which is practically unrestrictive in its character.

The provisions of the Crooks Act in Ontario were contrasted with those of the law existing in Nova Scotia, where the course adopted is a petition on the part of a certain proportion of householders against the license being required in order to withhold the issuance of such license, and it has been stated that this plan operates to better advantage than the Ontario system. The following points for discussion had been agreed upon by council for reference to the board, and the president therefore submitted them, viz.:—(1) Definition of licenses—wholesale; retail—i. e., hotels, saloons, taverns, bottle, or grocers' licenses. (2) Limitation of numbers. (3) Independent licensing authority. (4) High license. (5)

Define whether licensee or the owner of building occupied by him is entitled in perpetuity to a license. (6) Disqualifications of an applicant to acquire a license by transfer when said applicant has been refused a direct application for a license.

The *Colonist* adds that a lengthy discussion on the report ensued. It was generally conceded that the matter was one for the Provincial Legislature to deal with, and, moreover, one which required the most careful consideration.

—"The farmer feeds them all," is the refrain of a song glorifying the farmer's occupation. And it cannot be too often impressed upon Canadian farmers' sons that they mostly make a mistake in turning their backs upon the occupation of their fathers and rushing into mercantile business and the learned professions, which are already too crowded in this country. The following, from the *Peterboro' Examiner*, shows what resources an Ontario farmer has, apart from wheat, which some short-sighted people seem to regard as the only crop worth trouble:—"This morning a practical farmer, whose fine lands lie not far from town, showed the *Examiner* grain cheques that he had just received for 600 bushels of peas at 66c., 1,618 bushels of oats at 35c., and 200 bushels of barley at 75c.; all of which had been drawn into town within the past week, representing a total in cash of \$1,112. And this was but a small portion of his crops too. Talk of farmers being hard up!"

—A matter which seriously affects the interests of retail store-keepers in town and country is the extent to which peddling of various goods is being carried. It is stated that "there are 75 peddlers with waggons in Toronto, who pay no taxes for their privilege of selling goods in competition with the shop-keepers." It cannot be that they get off without a fee. We are told that tea peddlers are scattered through Ontario, in the interest of certain Toronto concerns, who get parcels of tea forwarded to them at a central point in a county and then proceed to distribute them, "playing the very old Harry," as a correspondent puts it, "with the trade of the retail store-keepers in the country." Certainly, if we are correctly informed that such peddlers infest the country and pay neither tax nor license, it is an eminently proper thing to force them to an even plane with other traders. Do the municipalities enforce the laws already existing in such cases.

—It appears from the table at foot that the gold mines of Nova Scotia yielded during the period from 1st Sept. to 25th October, 1,645 ounces of gold. This was extracted from 2,251 tons of quartz; which is at the rate of .7307 of an ounce to the ton. The following are the returns from various districts for the months of September and October up to date mentioned, showing the tons of quartz and the yield of gold:

District	Tons.	Oz.	Dwt.
Sherbrooke	255	yielding	56 16
Salmon River	350	"	224 0
Oldham	116	"	101 0
Caribou	18	"	18 15
Moose River	120	"	44 3
Uniacke	45	"	93 14
Chezzetcooke	128	"	103 10
Whiteburn	115	"	232 16
Fifteen Mile Stream	200	"	79 0
Stormont	15	"	18 10
Tangier	50	"	14 4
Kempt	4	"	1 0
Wine Harbor	75	"	45 15
Central Rawdon	80	"	364 0
Malaga	180	"	248 0