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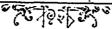
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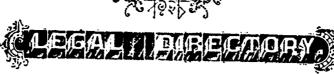
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Total Invested Funds, over - 35,000,000.

Investments in Canada. - 5.000,000.

Funds, over - 35,000,000.
Canada, - 5,000,000.

POLICIES ISSUED UNDER ALL SYSTEMS
INCLUDING THEIR NEW RESERVE BONUS
PLAN, UNDER WHICH VERY LARGE
PROFITS MAY BE ANTICIPATED.

of Edinburgh

PROSPECTUSES AND ALL INFORMATION FURNISHED AT HEAD OFFICE OR AT ANY OF THE COMPANY'S AGENCIES

W. M. RAMSAY, MANAGER FOR CANADA.

CHAS. HUNTER, SUPERINTENDENT OF AGENCIES.

Head Office for Canada: St. James Street, Montreal.

Subscribed Capital, - - \$13.760,000 Paid-up Capital, - - 3,437,600

Fire Fund and Reserves, - 10,422,004

.....

Life and Anneity Femils, 332,816,391

Fire Revenue. - - - 6.816,780

Life Revenue. - - 2.680,241

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE

Directors Gilbert South Enq Menri Barbeau, Rog.



CIRECTOFS: W.W.OGILVIE Eq. ARCHID MACNIDER, Fac

HEAD OFFICE FOR THE DOMINION: 72 ST. FRANCOIS XAVIER STREET, MONTREAL.

Agents in all Cities and Principal Towns in Canada.

THOMAS DAVIDSON.

Managing Director.

OFFICE: 8

MONTREAL, JANUARY 1, 1891.

Subscription:

THE

Insunance and Hinance Chronicle.

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month.

AT 1724 NOTRE DAME ST., MONTHEAL.

R. WILSON SMITH, Editor and Proprietor.

A. H. HUUNG, Associate Felitor.

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All Communications intended for THE CHEOSICLE must be in hand not later than the 20th and 25th of the month to secure insertion.

THE BILL BEFORE the Quebec Parliament for the assurance of the civil servants of the province and the abolition of the pension fund, referred to in our last issue, has been dropped at the request of the Provincial Treasurer, who would not agree to the proposed changes. This ends, for the present at any rate, a proposal which has created no little stir in life assurance circles in this province. The importance of the scheme has however been vastly overrated. It is estimated that the premiums would be about five per tent on salaries of about \$160,000, or say \$8,000 per annum, which is but a small matter in these days. Whether the proposed plan only slumbers or is finally defeated remains to be seen.

WE ARE NOT surprised. Insurance says that it doesn't see anything comical in the problems quoted in our last from the Baltimore Underwriter, which it is said are to be used by the Institute of Actuaries in the examination of candidates for admission this year. Of course not. In the sleepy atmosphere of Manhattan, with its quiet goodness, where Tammany politicians go straight to heaven, where all adjusters are honest and rebates unknown, where the sea fog hides the sun, and the innocent stock brokers go to sleep with the eighth commandment under their pillows, it is impossible to taste the flavor of a joke less strong than Limburger cheese. In the clear, crisp atmosphere hereabouts, as in the balmy air of Baltimore, where drowsy goodness is unknown, the average man can hear

the crack of even a small joke around the corner. can sometimes even detect something comical in a logarithm, and—in *Insurance*.

THE BAD REGULATIONS for the shipment of cattle from this port to England are, we are glad to see, of late receiving attention. The facilities for cattle transportation by the various steamship lines are, as a whole, faulty, and the arrangements for the proper care of the animals. on shipboard made by shippers are, as a rule, claimed to be as bad as they can be. At a recent conference on the subject between the representatives of the steamship lines, the marine underwriters, and the Minister of Marine, Mr. Tupper, it was stated by Mr. Reford, steamship agent, that frequently the men placed in charge of the cattle were picked up off the streets, of no account, and that they generally took to their bunks when on board; while in some cases the cattle attendants included lawyers, clergymen, doctors and politicians who wanted a free passage across the water. What little care the animals got was from the seamen, and that, one can imagine, could not be very much. A reform all round is imperatively demanded, from not only humanitarian but from insurance and commercial standpoints. It is to the marine underwriters largely that the present agitation of this question is due.

THE INSURANCE NEWS of Philadelphia is authority for the statement, that Mr. John Wanamaker, the great merchant of that city, and Postmaster-General of the United States, has organized a life assurance association for his employes, making membership therein compulsory, and with a rule providing that upon leaving his service, either voluntarily or otherwise, they shall forfeit membership and all benefits thereunder. Mr. Wanamaker is a great believer in life assurance, as the million and a half which he carries on his own life testifies; but it strikes us that this compulsory scheme, with its arbitrary forfeiture of membership after paying perhaps for years, is rather autocratic for a cabinet officer in the Republican administration of a boasted republic where every man is supposed to be a sovereign. Unquestionably, Mr. Wanamaker should, if possible, induce all his employes to insure their lives in some good institution; but compelling them to do so in his

own local institution, whereby they incur a penalty for leaving his service, even though they otherwise might greatly better their condition by leaving it, is an intolerable interference with personal rights of which Mr. Wanamaker ought to be heartily ashamed.

Speaking of the affirmation of the decision of the court below by the Wisconsin Supreme Court in the somewhat noted Sheanon case, the Coast Review oracularly says: "The accident companies will have to amend their policies to read 'dismemberment' instead of 'loss'." Possibly one company may do this—the Pacific Mutual Life which resisted the Sheanon claimbut most accident companies are in the business to indemnify their patrons for loss on equitable and common-sense lines, and they will continue so to indemnify for the entire loss of an eye or a leg or a hand, whether the loss is by total destruction of the functions of the member or its actual severance from the body, for both mean exactly the same thing to the loser. Legs and arms and eyes are to use, and the total loss of their use is quite as calamitous as their dismemberment; and whenever any accident company undertakes by policy stipulation to limit the indennity to the entire loss of a limb by actual cutting off, in some manner, it will speedily find itself taking a back seat. People want insurance against loss on broad, commonsense grounds, and there are plenty of good companies ready to furnish it on such grounds.

THE ATTITUDE OF THIS journal is well known with reference to life or any other kind of insurance as a government institution. It is not only, in our judgment, a usurpation and a meddling with the individual rights of the citie in, but extremely unwise from a business standpoint. As is well known, some years ago the small colony of New Zealand launched a life assurance company as a part of the government machinery, and has run it ever since. Having for a long time been favored with competent actuarial skill, the government has been able to make a very respectable showing of results from year to year. Of late, however, having become an influential factor, financially and otherwise, in the affairs of the New Zealand government, the men charged with its management seem inclined to use the institution as a ciub for fighting the regular life assurance companies seeking business there, attacking them, and entering into active competition with them by the use of the same tactics which companies sometimes unwisely employ against each other. Lately, as stated by our London contemporary, the Review, the way in which the funds have been employed has been severely criticized in the provincial parliament, and wrangling over this institution has fairly set in. The beginning of the end of that which never ought to have been begun at all is evidently at hand. All purely government insurance is a public nuisance.

A NOT VERY numerous but somewhat vociferous class of people are found in the United States and in England, and even in Canada, of whom, on insurance matters, it may be said that they are only happy when they are miserable. The Temples and Crowells are

specimens of this class, who are continually harping on the ruinous competition of "foreign companies." These people would fence in their respective countries, and exclude everything and everybody not branded purely English or American. The Republican of Meriden, Connecticut, gives expression to this suicidal policy of proscription, in a recent exhortation to the American people to remedy the imaginary evil of insurance in foreign companies by refusing to insure in these alien institutions. "Concerted action," it says, "on the part of the people will give to American capiital and American insurance companies the measure of business that their honorable record merits, and the degree of success they deserve at the hands of the American people." "Apply," it says, "the same principle that we do to our manufactures; protect the home institutions." The "people" somehow are deaf to all this kind of talk on both sides of the Atlantic, and so the average American goes right on buying English goods and English insurance, and the Englishman keeps buying American goods and produce and American insurance when for his interest, oblivious of the existence of the small fellows who try to make a big noise.

WHO CONTROLS THE BUSINESS?

We refer of course to the business of the insurance companies. To ask the question is to answer it, for every well-informed man knows that the agent controls it. We speak of the business as conducted in this part of the world-in Canada and the United States. In the old country it is different, where business has by age and long acquaintance between insurer and insured settled down into grooves, and where a "valuable connection" has a good deal to do with the constituency of a company. There the company is mainly considered, here the agent or the agency. It is well known that in all our large cities there are very large lines placed — and that word is in this connection suggestive by the agent with whom the property owner is well acquainted and in whose judgment on insurance matters he has confidence. And in a majority of cases the insured would be unable, if called upon, to give the names of the companies in which he is insured without hunting up his policies, and in not a few cases the policies are not even in his possession, but in his agent's safe. This fact has been repeatedly shown when, after some big fire, the enterprising reporter has been referred to Brown's or Smith's agency by the owner of the prcperty for a list of the companies on the risk.

The average business man has neither the time, inclination nor facilities for fully investigating the merits of the various companies, either fire or life, and, especially as to the former, he places the selection in the hands of his agent, just as he places his legal business in the hands of his lawyer, or his physical ailments in the hands of his physician. Just how effectually the agent, as a rule, controls the business, the companies who have had occasion to change their agencies know full well, for they have come to expect in such cases the loss of a big slice of the business transacted by the retired or retiring agent, and their hope is to make up

for it a, the business in like manner brought over by the new agency.

Now, the moral of all this ought to be clearly apparent to the managers of companies, and, happily, to most of them it is. That moral is that the insurance press reaches directly and influences potentially the agent, who in turn reaches as directly and controls as surely the choice of the insured, whether he seeks a policy on his property or on his life. The insurance press has a very considerable influence, and a growing one, on the daily or ordinary weekly newspaper, and thus, indirectly, reaches the general public; but its principal aim and its successful performance is in reaching that limited public which makes and unmakes companies. To the columns of the insurance journal the agent looks not only for the current news of what is transpiring in his special world, but for the portrayal of the strong and the weak points, the special features of companies, and for opinions editorially expressed, his own opinions being influenced thereby more or less as a matter of course.

It follows that a company of real merit, whether it be large or small, consults its be interests when it makes its merits known through the columns of the insurance press. A light may be very brilliant, but if hidden under a bushel will neither be seen nor long burn at all. It is written in the long chronicles of insurance happenings, that no company, however well launched, has ever yet achieved a real success which undertook to ignore the influence of the insurance press; while it is also written, so that he who runs may read, that many smaller, meritorious companies have grown strong and influential because they have let their lights shine out upon the world in which lay their work.

AGENT-STEALING AND REFORM.

Competition is a good thing, an indispensable thing in the promotion of true progress in the community. It is the leaven in the meal of human endeavor, working potentially to widest breadth of result. Guerilla warfare, however, is not competition, any more than piracy is legitimate fighting; and, unlike honorable competition which stimulates, it destroys. In the great and laudable strife for new business among the life assurance companies of the United States and of Canada during the past four or five years, competition of a legitimate kind has degenerated into the tactics of the guerilla, who? dashes out from concealment to strike without warning. Companies are no longer content to try winning on their merits, but attempt to build their own fortunes by material stolen from their neighbors. We speak of the characteristics of the business as a whole, believing that there may be honorable exceptions, though, in the nature of the case, the few are powerless to work reform.

There are many forms of the evil which this illegitimate strife for business engenders, but recent events have brought into prominence the principal one—that of agent-stealing. That is neither an elegant nor a complimentary phrase, but it is expressive, and has recently been conspicuously used by the president of the second largest life assurance company in the world the Equitable of New York. Both in a letter to the New York *Chronicle* and in an interview with a representative of the *Argus* of Chicago, Mr. Hyde freely acknowledges the existence of the evil named, and proposes a plan for its abatement. The substance of Mr. Hyde's letter to the *Chronicle* is embodied in the following extract:—

I propose as a beginning an agreement between six or more of the presidents of the largest life insurance companies, that they will not, under any circumstances, "steal" agents from one another. This is the greatest disintegrating element existing, and it is impossible to put the business of life insurance on a proper footing as things stand to-day. If the insurance press, whose mission it is, among other things, to correct abuses in the business, will take up this reform, I will most cordially co-operate with them.

In his talk with the Argus, Mr. Hyde, referring to the above letter and the proposition therein made, further said :- "In token of our earnestness, the Equitable will put up any amount of money which the others may regard as the proper forfeit of each company, in the event of a violation of the agreement." Now, this is a definite proposition and a distinct challenge both to the other companies and to the insurance press to inaugurate a much needed reform. There is no question about the attitude of the insurance press, for its outspoken utterance it was which led up to the present stage of proposed reform. We readily give credit to the managers of the other leading companies for a desire equal to Mr. Hyde's to abate this growing evil of agent-stealing, and now that the way has been so well opened and the plan pointed out, we shall look for a speedy agreement of some kind looking to this end. Anything less than a frank, unequivocal declaration of a desire to enter into some practical plan for the abolition of the evil will be interpreted in a way most damaging to any dodging company or companies. Where all are guilty, and have, in a measure, been forced into a distasteful practice in self-defence, it will be all the easier to unite in a permanent peace. We believe that Mr. Hyde simply expressed the feelings of the executive heads of the other companies when, in reply to a question of the Argus' representative as to whether the Equitable might claim exemption from the sin charged, that gentleman frankly replied:-

Ves, the Equitable is not altogether exempt from the practice,—you are right, and I can tell you, we shall continue to protect our rives, as we are quite able to do, so long as this game is played by other companies. However, I tell you frankly and honestly, that a reform in this "beggar-my-neighbor" business is one of the several reforms for which life insurance has great need, and, for the good of the business, I am anxious to see it effected.

That the president of any one of the other large companies would say as much, we do not doubt. To make reprisals on the enemy is considered good tactics in war, and it is on this principle that the stealing, having once commenced, has been kept up and aggravated by the practice of retaliatory methods. With mutual safety and without recrimination the evil now may be put away if the companies will. When we speak of agent-stealing by the life companies we mean what we suppose Mr. Hyde had in mind, viz, the

seduction of an agent from the service of a competing company by clandestine methods and by the offer of larger commissions, or equivalent inducements. That agents will now and then, for reasons satisfactory to themselves, seek to transfer their allegiance to some other company is natural and legitimate, and the business of nobody but that of the conflacting parties, always provided that faith has been kept both by former employer and retiring employe. In the natural course of things a good many such changes will occur, as in all other kinds of business, and they will continue; but going fishing, with sonle "smart" special for hook and line and "big money" for bait, after the successful agents of another company is quite another thing.

But this stealing of agents involves something even worse, i. c., the unsettling of the faith of the policyholder in his company and the "twisting" of him into another company, always at a loss to himself. When one company undertakes deliberately to induce by shady met "sthe agent of a competitor to enter its service, the question of how much of his former business he can transfer to its policy register is a leading one and never lost sight of. It is to the existence of this state of affairs that the business during the last few years owes such a large percentage of lapses. That it is in every way demoralizing and in the end unprofitable we need not step to argue.

Of course the main question at the bottom of this new movement by Mr. Hyde is one of money, not of morals. The commission now paid for new business, as everybody well informed knows, is larger than ever paid before, and, as the stock quotations say, " with an upward tendency." Where no renewal commission is allowed-and the American companies have largely shorn their contracts of this feature—we all know that a pretty round commission on first year's premiums can be paid legitimately; but when, in order to get agents to get business, from 65 to 80 per cent, is freely allowed, the charge is more than the business will stand. This fact the company managers have for some time realized, but how to come down without losing the coveted "boom" for new business, so long as the "other fellow" sailed his balloon among the clouds, was a difficult question. Now of course the proposition for a general truce on the agent-stealing rumpus means a reduction of commissions. The companies, we believe, both in the States and in Canada, would be glad to see rebating stopped, and that it can be effectually if the agents will organize and co-operate with each other and with the companies, there is no shadow of doubt; it follows, therefore, that a reduction of commissions on first premiums in the interest of the com panies may be made without injury to the interests of the agents, who, with no rebating, will get quite as much then for their labor as they are getting now.

The Investigator of Chicago gives a list of 25 mutual fire insurance companies (all but two Western), which, it says, is a "partial list of those which have failed, consolidated, made heavy assessments, or have been in financial distress during the year."

WALKERTON ON INSURANCE "MONOPOLIES."

Walkerton is in Ontario. It has a "Board of Trade." This Board of Trade is composed of wise men, and they have, through a committee of exceptionally wise men, made a discovery, the discovery which has also been made several times each year for the past twenty-five years by the wise men of small towns and villages like Walkerton, viz., that the fire insurance business is a "grinding monopoly" and that these towns could, if they only would, in their corporate capacity run their own insurance machines at an e-n-o-r-m-o-u-s saving. This committee of the town of Walkerton have "reported,"-their gun being loaded to the muzzle with statistics. Of course statistics never lie-when accompanied with collateral and modifying facts; otherwise they do most generally lie outrageously. This committee first select 1889 with its premiums and losses in Canada as a specimen of the outrageous profits made by the insurance companies for the, to the committee, satisfactory reason that it was the most favorable year as to losses (one year, 1880, excepted) in 21 years, the loss ratio being 51.4 per cent., whereas for the 21 years it averaged 70.7 per cent. This latter fact had to be admitted by the committee, who proceed coolly to dear et the loss of the St-John fire in 1877, and thus bring the average loss ratio down to 63.3. While in the "paring down" business we wonder that the committee didn't deduct several other large fires in other years, which would have been quite as fair and quite as sensible.

There are just two things which these good people in Walkerton seem not to know. The first is, that the results to capital in fire insurance can only be determined by the experience of a series of years in a widely extended field; and the second is, that it costs something to transact all the business incidental to fire insurance. Experience throughout a long period, under the watchful eye of capital, has shown that the expense of management cannot be reckoned at less than 30 per cent. of the premiums on the average, and this is under rather than over the actual expense. Now, in the 21 years from 1869 to 1889 inclusive, the total fire insurance premiums received in Canada were \$80,002,000, and the losses \$56,610,852. Reckoning expenses at 30 per cent. of premiums we have a total of \$80,611,_ 452 for losses and expenses, or a demonstration that the business during that time has resulted in a loss to the companies, on underwriting account, of \$609,452! The fact is, a large amount of capital is every year sunk in the fire insurance business, as the nearly a score of companies which have retired during 1890 in the United States alone clearly shows. The companies which have realized from time to time anything like a fair return on the capital invested have been obliged to look quite as much to income from invested funds as to underwriting for profits, and in many cases the former has been the only source of income above outgo.

Now, suppose Walkerton, or any other town, proceed to tax the people—supposing the corporation to have the legal power to do this—a portion of the amount paid now to the insurance companies in premiums, the corporation taking the place of the companies as insurer. Then let us further suppose, what is happening every day to some other town, that a big fire comes and burns up half the place, or even \$50,000 worth of it. What then? Nothing much, only that the same people who have paid the assessed premium must put their hands in their pockets and pay their own loss! Suppose the city of St. John in 1877 had been its own insurer? Nothing much, only that there would have been no St. John to-day. Insurance money to the extent of nearly a quarter of a million dollars came to the relief of that city, and rebuilt its stores, and factories, and dwellings, just as it did those of Chicago, and just as it does everywhere else.

By all means, if the people of Waikerton are anxious to buy experience at a big cost, let them adopt some scheme—the precise form is immaterial—for becoming their own in arers. The insurance companies will not, we presume, object at all. We know of towns whose people have bought experience on the subject of insurance. It costs a good deal, but we have no doubt they would give to Walkerton the benefit of that experience gratis. The towns referred to do not play with that kind of a buzz saw now. They have concluded that they don't understand the business, and are willing to believe that one small town does not afford a field quite extensive enough to give a good "average." They insure promptly now in the biggest "monopolistic" companies they can get, and seem not to be at all miserable.

COUNTERS AND SHELVING.

Mr. R. A. Sinclair of Cannington, Ont., sends us the following:—

Are counters and shelving, securely nailed and built in, part of the building; and in the event of a fire, would they be considered as such, or would they be deducted from the price of the building in adjusting the loss?

We assume that Mr. Sinclair means to ask if, when the above are put in and owned by the owner of the building, they would, in the event of a fire, be included in the loss on the bulding. The term building as applied to the policy includes everything connected therewith which constitutes an integral part of the structure, including fixtures or appurter uces which are a necessary part.

Of course, where the counters and shelving are put in by a tenant for *trade purposes*, it is evident no claim can be made by the owner, who has no legal standing. It is in connection with this particular feature that the question of "trade fixtures" comes in, but we do not think that Mr. Sinclair has any desire to get an expression of opinion on that point.

In the printed conditions of some companies' policies there is a stipulation that gas, water and other fixtures (not including pipes, etc.) are not to be included in an insurance on building, and under such circumstances a literal interpretation might exclude the counters and shelving. But in Ontario, whence this question comes, there is no such provision in the statutory conditions.

FROM TWO POINTS OF VIEW.

For the second time this year we may say that a serious fire can "point a moral" if it does not "adorn a tale." In the case of the Montreal High School, as well as that of the Force of University, the amount of insurance was absurdly small compared to the value of the property, and the loss in both instances to the public was proportionately large. With a private individual it may perhaps be conceded that he has a right to run the risk entailed by the "penny wise and pound foolish" principle, so often illustrated in the saving of a few dollars a year, with the consequent heavy loss when a serious fire occurs. The property is his own, and provided he can afford it he alone is the sufferer. But we cannot admit that it is the same with property which is held in trust for public purposes, where we maintain that those in charge are in duty bound to take every precaution to see that the public does not suffer a loss which can be guarded against. That this course was not followed out either with the Toronto University or the Montreal High School must be admitted, for a large amount of money has been lost in both cases which, by comparatively small outlay, might have been saved, since there would have been no difficulty in insuring such buildings to their full value. As it is, the public is called upon to make up the deficiency, or, in other words, is its own insurer.

That is one view of the subject, and the one which the public has to consider; but there is also another side to the question to be looked at by the insurance companies, namely, whether, with such risks when the insurance carried is so much below the value, the rate is really adequate. The rate is based upon the theory that the risk is what is termed a non-hazardous one; but under the circumstances this would appear to be a mistake, since a loss of from twenty-five to fifty per cent. of the value is a total, so far as it affects the insurance. The remedy for this, so far as we can see, is either the introduction of the average or co-insurance clause, or to grade the rates according to the amount of insurance carried, as compared to the value. It is manifestly inequitable that the same rate should be charged upon a school or university insured for its full value as upon one which is insured for only half its value, unless the co-insurance clause is attached, since up to a certain point the insurance liability is equal, while the premium collected is twice as much in one case as the other. This may be a trifle in considering but two risks, but in the aggregate of the class the difference is a very material one. To make our meaning plainer, we will suppose there are 100 schools worth \$100,000 each, insured for their full value, at, say, I per cent., the premium on which would be \$100,000, and that during the currency of the policies one or more are damaged to the extent of \$50,000. Such a loss is 50 per cent. of the premiums. On the other hand, let us say that only half the value is insured at the same rate, yielding of course a premium of \$50,000, and the above loss necessarily shows 100 per cent. of those premiums in the place of 50 per cent., clearly demonstrating that the rate, though nominally

the same, may be ample in the one instance and totally inadequate in the other.

Doubtless the co-insurance or average clause is the most equitable method of dealing with these large risks, as then there would be no difficulty in fixing a uniform rate which would be equally fair, whether a large or small amount of the value was insured; but certainly we think if this cannot be done, the companies should so arrange rates as to have some regard to the comparison between the value and the insurance, which would not only benefit themselves but induce greater forethought by and thus save heavy losses to the public, such as have occurred in the two cases we have cited.

MR. T. L. MORRISEY.

The portrait which we present on another page of the CHRONICLE will introduce to such of our readers as have not yet made his personal acquaintance the features of Mr. T. L. Morrisey, recently appointed Canadian manager of the old Union Assurance Society of London, with headquarters at Montreal. Born at St. John, N.B., in 1860, Mr. Morrisey is one of the youngest fire underwriters occupying a managerial position in the Dominion. The education of his boyhood and early youth was received in the schools of St. John, until in 1876 he entered the law office of J. S. D. Thompson, Esq., at Halifax (now Minister of Justice), where he remained a few months only. Early in 1877 young Morrisey took a clerkship in the office of Hon. M. B. Daly (now Lient.-Governor of Nova Scotia), who was then the general agent for that Province of the Imperial Fire Insurance Company, with whom he remained until 1885. During the service of Mr. Daly in Parliament, Mr. Morrisey was entrusted with the practical management of the affairs of the office, and developed a ready aptness for the work. At the reorganization of the Nova Scotia Board of Fire Underwriters in 1882, Mr. Morrisey was chosen secretary, which position he occupied until 1885 when he left Halifax to become inspector of the Imperial for the Maritime Provinces, with headquarters at St. John. During that year he assisted Mr. Chas. D. Cory in making specific ratings for all the towns in Nova Scotia. In September last Mr. Morrisey was appointed to his present position as manager for Canada of the Union of London, and enters upon his work with the cordial good wishes of his friends and the underwriting fraternity generally, full of youthful energy and courage, and under all the conditions of success.

THE UNION ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF LONDON.

When an institution has reached a half century of years as the measure of its life, it is justly regarded as having earned a position where it may challenge public confidence. There are, however, a few British insurance companies having an unbroken record of a hundred or more years, while a good many have passed the half century stage. In point of age, however, the old Union Assurance Society of London outranks nearly all, having been founded in 1714. In 1813, ninetynine years later, the life branch was added, and is therefore 77 years old, while the company as a fire insurance

institution dates back 176 years. During all these years the Union has not aimed so much to be great as to be strong. Its management has been conservative, even to slowness, but the result is shown in ample, carefully invested assets and the existence of a large surplus fund beyond liabilities. On the 31st of December, 1889, the Union had invested funds amounting to \$11,046,350, of which \$6,693,685 belonged to the life brane i and the balance to general fund and fire fund. The paid up capital amounts to \$900,000 and the annual income is not far from \$1,700,000. The confidence of the public in its condition and management is shown by the fact that its shares (Lijo paid up) sell readily in the market for £265, or more than 660 per cent. In extending its business to Canada we think the Union has done well, for our people know a good thing when they see it, and will not overlook the merits of this old and strong company, which points to an honorable past as the guarantee of a successful future.

AN ADJUSTMENT PROBLEM.

We have received the following statement of an adjustment problem, asking for a solution:—

Insurance by Company C. On household furniture, including pictures (not more than \$50.00 on any one picture), \$1500.

Insurance by Company W. On household furniture, including pictures (no one picture in case of loss to be valued at more than \$20), \$1500.

Loss	OII	Furniture	·····	\$384.50
4.4	••	Picture	ı.	\$ 4.00
44	46	••	2.	12.00
44	• •	44	3.	5.00
4.6	••	••	4.	40.00
**	4.6	••	5. 6.	10.00
**	42	4.4	6.	6.00
44	4.4	4.6	7.	5.00
••	44	**	7· 8.	50.00
4.	••	44	9.	5.00\$137.00

\$521.00

What should each company pay: 1st. On the pictures; 2nd. On the furniture?

The above has been submitted to two experienced underwriters, and we present the solutions received for the benefit of all concerned.

FIRST SOLUTION.

Regarding the correct apportionment between two companies of a loss of \$137.00 on pictures, and \$384-50 on household furniture, Company W's policy reading "no one picture in case of loss to be valued at more than \$20.00," and Company C's. policy reading "not more than \$50.00 on any one picture," it is of course perfectly clear that both policies cover all pictures in the house, the only difference being that in the event of total destruction of the pictures or of serious damage to any of them, Company W. could only be made liable to the extent of its proportion of \$20.00 on any one, whilst Company C. would be liable to the extent of \$50.00 on any one, owing to the peculiar wording of the clause. The first thing to be done then was to obtain the appraiser's value of the pictures claimed for separately, and this having been supplied, I now append an apportionment which I consider to be in strict accordance with the reading of the policies, by



T. L. MORRISEY.

Managery Campbers of Union Assurance Society

Issued by the Insurance and Finance Chroniste.

which Company W pays \$239.11, and Company C. \$282.30, making up the total element of the company C.

\$202.39, making up the total cla	imed of	\$521.50	э.
Apportionment :-			
Pictures Nos. 1, 3 and 9 being within	Co. C pay	s. Co.W pa	ys. Tota
a value of \$20 each	\$ 7 00	\$ 7 00	\$ 14 0
aged below that sum	16 50	16 50	33 o
to extent of \$40 Picture No. 8 valued at \$100, damaged to extent of \$500.	30 00	10 00	49 0
aged to extent of \$50	40 00	10 00	50 0
On household farniture other than pictures, loss thereon \$384.50:—	\$ 93-50	\$43 50	\$ 137 ○
Company C pays as 2863: 1406 50::	.00 0.		.00 0.
Company W wars at 500	188 - 89 -		188-8;

SECOND SOLUTION.

..... 195 61

Company W pays as 2863: 1456.50::

The statement shows that there are 9 pictures damaged, not one of them however for an amount even equal to the combined limits named by the two companies. Under the circumstances, each company should contribute to the damage assessed in the proportion of 9 times the limit on any one picture, the relative position each company would have been in had the loss been total, so that the respective liabilities would be as follows, say :-Co. C. On pictures

Co. C. On pictures	630 450 : : 137 : 630 : 180 : : 137 :	•••••	
Co. C. On furniture	2863:1402::384.50: 2863:1461::384.50:		\$137 00 \$188 30 . 196 20
0.0	Recapitulation.		<u>\$384</u> 50
Co. C pays on pictures "furnitur	e		A -96
Co. W pays on pictures " furnitur	s	\$ 39 15	\$286 15 \$235 35
		-	

I have purposely taken no notice of the difference in the wording of the limit clause in the two policies. although there is certainly a difference that might, if the amount at stake were larger, have an effect upon the apportionment. I do not think that even for the sake of principle I need do more than allude to the point.

MONTREAL LIFE AGENTS' ASSOCIATION.

The Montreal Association of Life Assurance Agents, we are glad to see, evidently means business, and has certainly made an excellent beginning in the movement for promoting fraternal relations and correcting existing evils. A circular has been issued to all agents by the secretary of the Association, Mr. E. A. Cowley, from which we quote as follows:-

The first and most important step which the Association proposes for the mutual benefit of all agents will be to endeavor to procure legislation, looking to the compulsory abolition of the obnoxious rebate. The Association will endeavor to effect this legislation, if possible, during the next session of the Federal Parlia-

The Anti-Rebate laws of the different States have proven a success in every way, and we see no good reason why we should be less successful in our efforts in that direction in Canada.

In order to put a strong case forward, we want the hearty co-operation of every life insurance agent in the Province of Quebec, at least, and we make a strong and special appeal to every individual agent, to forward his name to the undersigned, who will be pleased to send the necessary application papers and a copy of the By-Laws and Constitution.

By a combined effort only will we be able to accomplish the desired end, and every agent should join the Association for that purpose, if for no other. The Association will become incorporated at an early date, so that no financial liability will be incurred further than the small annual dues of \$5, which also covers entrance fees.

It is proposed, if the membership will allow, to procure a suitable room and furnish the same comfortably, including the standard insurance literature. This should have a happy effect, bringing the agents more closely together and binding their interests more strongly.

The Association has, at present, about forty members, including several managers as associate members. It is anticipated that every life insurance manager in the Province will join as an associate member, and it is hoped that every life agent, without exception, will assist, not only the Association, but also himself by forwarding his request for an application for membership.

The Annual Meeting and election of officers will be held on January 27th, of which due notice will be given, and all members joining and paying their dues before that date will be entitled to all the privileges of mem-bership in time for the election. The Association exacts no promise from an agent on the rebate question; all it asks is that every agent shall assist it by doing what he can to procure proper legislation on the sub-

UNITED FIRE RE-INSURANCE COMPANY.

Final arrangements for the admission of the above company to Canada were completed this week by United States Manager Wm. Wood, and the required deposit made with the Government at Ottawa. An office has been taken in the Temple Building on St. James street, Montreal, and the company, in charge of Mr. Percy F. Lane, the son of General Manager Lane, as superintendent, is fully ready for business. As its name indicates, the company is purely for a re-insurance business, and while not a competitor is an important ally of the other companies. The United Fire is a British company located at Manchester, and has been in the field for thirteen years, having been organized in 1877. Very naturally the Canadian branch will be under the supervision of the New York office, as represented by Manager Wood, who has become most favorably known in the United States for his superior managerial skill and excellent personal qualities. The premium income of the company in the United States in 1889 was more than a million dollars, and its assets there on January 1, 1890, were \$1,099.426, with aggregate liabile es of only \$685,104. The risks written in the United States in 1889 amounted to over \$114,000,000 and have doubtless been larger during 1890. The subscribed capital of the United Fire Re-insurance is \$1,250,000, with \$500,-000 paid up, and its reserve fund about \$750,000.

During its existence the company has earned a reputation for honorable dealing and careful management, and we have no doubt that Superintendent Lane will receive a cordial welcome from the underwriters of Canada, and find this a good field for his company.

THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH.

(From The Review, London.)

There are, as we have before observed, a number of insurance companies amounting, as we calculate roughly, to about 50 per cent. of the whole body, which are, as far as practical appreciation of the present condition of life insurance, of the growing intelligence of the public, of an increasing necessity for insurance, and of the enormous possibilities for development of business goes, as much in the dark as if they were at the bottom of that particular seven-mile depth of the Pacific Ocean, where, as we learn, a more than Cimmerian darkness is said to prevail. They are totally eclipsed by their own heavy conceit. Ensconced within their highly respectable walls and behind their highly polished deor plates, they think that all they have to do is to announce in the Post Office Directory where they are to be found, in order to secure a flow of new business. But the immaculate purity of the door-steps of these offices is not sullied to any perceptible extent. The kamptulicon in front of the counters is not worn away by the tread of many footsteps; the massive ledgers go on from year to year unsulfied by blots, or other evidence of too energetic efforts of the conscientious accountants, who beam at casual candidates for assurance from behind highly polished and spotless countains. ters. These companies have fulfilled their mission, and the only function left for them now is to go into honorable liquidation, or into advantageous amalgamation. There has been a most unmistakable stirring of the dry bones within the last 20 years, and, much as we lament to say it, this has been absolutely due primarily to the advent of American life insurance companies, and secondarily to the continuously increasing and most energetic efforts of the few progressive insurance companies of Great Britain. These progressive insurance companies of Great Britain, be it said, are those wherein the motive power is supplied by individual intelligence, and where boards of directors recognize that their general functions are of a supervising rather than of an initiating character. Having selected a first class man, they give him first class opportunities, and, having provided for the costs, and wages, and the steampower, they let the good ship go, having unlimited confidence in the captain and steersman, being content to meet at certain intervals, and to check the number of miles run per diem.

We commend our readers to peruse with the most severe and critical attention an article which has recently appeared in the Edinburgh Quarterly Review upon the subject of life assurance. The writer, who, like Balaam, has tried to curse, involuntarily blesses the efforts of those energetic managers who, whether American or English, have succeeded almost in revolutionizing the practice of life insurance in Great Britain. The reviewer in his closely-woven arguments and in his eloquent peroration is, while holding up to con-demnation certain features of the American life insurance companies, indirectly giving the strongest testimony and a brilliant endorsement of the vaine of their And his argument is not very different from efforts. that which we have continuously expressed in these columns. This argument may be briefly recapitulated as follows: We hold that, as a canon of faith, it is absolutely necessary, that every person who is a wage

earner or an income realizer has a primary duty to fulfill in being insured in one or other of our numerous We have held it as the next principle, that life offices. the office in which such a person is insured should be We have continuously an absolutely solvent one. claimed and maintained that next to this question of solvency comes that of judicious investment of the premiums, so that the maximum of profit may be obtained therefrom. But if our first and second premises are adopted in their entirety, it will be seen at once that the question of the selection of an office, in order to get back the greatest possible return in exchange for a given pound sterling, is an especial talent, and demands special powers of investigation. The power of making a good bargain is one which results from special knowledge in the first place, and in the second place of the possession of the requisite amount of time and leisure to apply that knowledge to advantage. Now, each of these conditions are of the very highest importance in their way, but they are entirely secondary to the second principle, namely: that a solvent office should be secured in which to seek indemnity, and most distinctly they are subordinate to the general necessity for being insured anywhere, rather than nowhere at all. So long, therefore, as the knowledge of how to buy the maximum of indemnity, plus bonus, is limited to the few, so long will there be an opening for the apostles of the gospel of insurance, so long as this insurance is advocated by solvent and reputable institutions.

The days of respectability hidden under a bushel, and passive comatose solvency, have gone for ever. Unless at least half of the British offices rise and gird up their loins and vigorously enter into the fray, they will suffer what is simply asphyxiation. They will be squeezed out, they will disappear, and by the natural process of that rapid rise in the percentage of expenditure to the amount of the new business done, which we contend is coupled with the solvency test, the true gauge of the claim to a continued existence on the part of any life insurance company. This argument can be verified by the most casual reference to the statistics which are published from year to year through the Board of Trade returns. They can be verified by a reference to the success which, though temporary, has been none the less comprehensive of those ignis fatuuslike institutions that provide a grand field for insurance at half the usual rates, and which have had such a great success amongst us of late years.

Individualism and one-man power are coming to the front in a most unmistakable way, and we once more warn those institutions which rely solely on a brass plate and unblemished financial reputation, that the time has arrived when they must step down and step out, and give place to corporations which have the energy to apply the lessons of the age, and which fully recognize, in their entirety, the true bearing and full meaning of the words with which we have headed these our present observations.

"WISHING" AND HOEING TATERS.

There is an old, a well-worn, and, in some respects, a pathetic story of an urchin leaning wearily on his hoe in the potato field one dull Spring morning, when the sky was overcast, and the freshly stirred earth gave out its languorous odors, and the hard and uninviting toil seemed almost insupportable. The spirit of unrest was at work in the lad. Longings for a day off, for a little fun, for a change, if nothing more, stirred in him. Monotony depressed him, his special work was distasteful to him and the young blood in his veins struggled for variety and for freedom. "Dad," said the boy, as he looked up at the cloudy sky and then at the silver shimmer of the stream flowing by the foot of the

meadow. "Dad, I guess the fish would bite good today." "Well, sonny," said the practical parent, "you keep right on hoeing taters and they won't bite you."

keep right on hoeing taters and they won't bite you."
Unfeeling as the answer may appear, it brings out Onleaning as the answer may appear, it brings out into sharp outline the supremacy of duty over inclination, of fortitude over despondency, of fidelity and conscientiousness and grit over vain imaginings and foolish regrets, and indolent repinings. "Keep right on hoeing taters" is unpalatable advice to many a weary worker in the field of life insurance who would fain do comothing else. One thinks he cought to be a fain do something else. One thinks he ought to be a general agent when he is only a solicitor, another thinks the company's rules absurdly strict; another, that its demands on him are too great; another, that his field is too small; another, that his commissions are too low. One man thinks he knows more about his own business than the officers do; another, that his abilities are undervalued; another, that the work he is set to do is all wrong; another doesn't see why everybody doesn't see things just as he does; another, that he is hampered and restricted; and still another, that somebody is down on him. To all these the story is applicable. To all these its moral comes: "You are what you are; you have your work to dodo it; you are one of the cogs or one of the wheels of a great machine; you have your place and your function; fill your place, fulfil your function."

It may be hard to be told to hoe potatoes when we had rather be raising orchids or going fishing, but duty is duty. We may think the work not worthy of us, we may feel that our energies and our abilities are wasted in servile toil, but if we have taken the contract let us carry it out like men. Courage and self-control and tenacity of purpose are the attributes of manhood, and are often best exemplified when possibly we think them the least called for. All of usare "hoeing taters" in one way or another. The earth to all of us is sometimes a dreary place enough, but "tickle it with a hoe and it will laugh with a harvest."

William Gray, formerly one of the wealthiest and most respected merchants of Boston, came of very humble origin. At a directors' meeting, in his later years, he advocated some measure opposed by a pompous and overhearing capitalist, who tried to disconcert him by interrupting his remarks, and cried out: "Billy Gray, I knew you when you were a drummer boy!" "You did," said Mr. Gray, "and didn't I drum well?" That sounds the keynote. Billy Gray drummed well when he had to drum; when he imported China silks and teas he did that well; and he managed well the largest manufacturing plant in New England when that came to him to do likewise.

"Act well your part—there all the honor lies;" bravely, cheerfully if may be, put aside your natural yielding to doubtfulness, to despondency, to hesitancy; brace yourself for your task, do it to the best of your ability, and then some day, as it happened once of old, perchance one shall come unto you and say: "Friend, go up higher."—Weekly Statement.

A MOVEMENT jointly by the United States and France has been set on foot for some agreement among the principal commercial nations as to a uniform bi-metallic currency. This involves a uniform value for silver as compared with gold,—the coinage of all silver brought to the several mints, and the making of silver coin a legal tender. It is thought that circumstances for such a bi-metallic union, especially between England, the United States, France, Germany and Italy, are more favorable than at any previous period. The subject certainly will bear careful examination.

Financial and Statistical.

According to the Railway Review, Sault Ste. Marie bids fair to become a mammoth manufacturing centre. A strong company has been formed to develop the water power of Lake Superior, and apply it to large establishments on both sides of the falls at Sault Ste. Marie, the works on the Canadian side to be above and on the American side below the rapids. It is estimated that the actual volume and velocity of the water fall is 122,000 feet per second, equivalent to 236,000 horse power. The company esign to build on the Canadian side a tail-race five miles long and 1,000 feet wide, and on the American side a canal also five miles long and 1,000 feet wide—a width unequaled, it is said, by any canal in the world. Immense dry docks are to be built on either side, to be filled and emptied by gravitation. Blast furnaces, shipyards, flouring and paper mills, and kindred manufacturing establishments are contemplated.

We are glad to see a general disposition throughout Canada among wholesale dealers to shorten the credit period extended to retailers. This movement is especially noticeable in the Province of Quebec among wholesale grocers, and we trust will find imitation in all the other lines of trade. A business held well in hand, and approaching as nearly as practicable a cash basis, is in a condition to withstand the depressing influence of a general financial disturbance when a long-credit business finds it difficult, if not impossible, to weather the storm. The retailer who gets long credit is apt to give long credit to his customers, and when the stringency comes the tightness is felt all the way up from the consumer to the manufacturer or producer. There is altogether too much of the business of the Dominion done on long credit in all branches of trade, and even if shortened one half would still bequite long enough for safety.

It is of general interest to note the growth of a few cities in the United States, as shown by the census at the end of each of the three last decades. In these thirty years Minneapolis has increased nearly threenfold and in ten years nearly quadrupled, while St. Paul since 1870 has grown nearly sevenfold, and since 1880 nearly fourfold. Chicago has nearly doubled since 1880 and nearly quadrupled since 1870, while Milwaukee, Pittsburg and Detroit have made great strides. Following is the list of all but three Western cities:—

	1870	1550.	1S90.
Pittsburg	\$6,000	156,000	235,000
Cleveland	95,000	160,000	261,000
Milwaukec	71,000	115,000	201,000
Detroit	79,000	116,000	205 000
Chicago	29%,000	503,000	1,299,000
Rochester	62,386	59,000	135,000
Buffalo	117,000	155.000	251,000
Albany	69,000	90,000	91,000
Minnexpolis	13,000	46,000	161,000
St. Paul	50,000	41,000	153,000
San Francisco	110,000	2,74,000	295,000
Scattle	1,000	3,500	44,000

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE CHARTERED BANKS IN CANADA.

Comparison of Principal Items.

				:-:		
Assets.	oth Nov., 1890.	31st Oct., 1890.	30th Nov., 1889.	Increase and Decrease for month.	1	rease and Secrease or year.
Specie and Dominion Notes Notes, cheques and balances due from other Can. bks. Due from American Banks and Branches Due from British Banks and Branches Government Securities Loans and Collaterals Loans to Corporations Current Discounts to the Public Overline debts, including those secured by mortgage.	9,647,572 11,489,225 4,690,697 8,712,912 14,923,373 30,632,412 153,535,370 2,467,181	10,255,511 14,270,420 4,92,798 8,710,681 16,039,074 29,555,691 153,042,233 2,482,962	14,67,5,398 25,739,642 151,025,635 2,551,633	Hec. 2,781,19 Hec. 231,10 Hec. 1,715,70 Hec. 1,076,72 Hec. 15,78	9 Dec. 2 Dec. 1 Inc. 1 Inc. 1 Inc. 1 Inc. 1 Inc. 1 Inc. 1 Inc.	\$ 386,559 72,295 257,999 1,589,602 503,462 247,975 4,892,770 2,569,735 54,452 7,811,596
Total Assets	260,791,281	264,825,212	252,979,688	Dec. 4,033,92	inc.	1,011,1970
Liabilities. Notes in circulation Government Deposits, Dominion and Provincial Deposits from the public Loans and Deposits from and amounts due to other Banks in Cauada	36,344,546 5,030,306 133,135,358 2,207,241		34.899.830 7.654.421 124.274.519 2.836.070	Dec. 727.56 Dec. 2,579.70	3 Inc. 6 Dec. 6 Inc. 5 Dec.	1,444.716 2,624,115 8,663,869 648,826
Ralances due to American Banks and branches Ralances due to British Banks and branches Total Liabilities	79.881	100,597 1,265,296 181,714,830	133,617	Dec. 20,71	3 Dec. a Dec.	53.733 182,120 6,668,603
Capilal.	ļ	1	•	•	I	
Capital paid up	60,013,485 21,603,654 7,145,845	59.093.380 21.573.534 7.488.611	60,189,356 20,141,332 7,028,201	Inc. 30,13	5 Dec. o inc. 6 Dec.	175,871 1,462,322 782,446

Two links, vit., The Federal link and Rink of London vin (anada) have been dropped from the Statement within the year.

THE NOVEMBER BANK STATEMENT.

In reviewing the October statement of the chartered banks, we remarked that no trace of the financial flurry at that time engaging attention was discernible in the statement for that month, and expressed a hope that a like result might follow in November. How far our hopes have been realized can hardly be definitely decided. That changes have taken place is apparent: but that, taking them one with another, they are of an unfavorable nature we can hardly admit. Bank notes show a falling off during the month, but seldom do we find the circulation so slightly changed, which indicates that with the increased business of September, followed by a reasonable expansion in October, and notwithstanding the disturbance in the money market of England and the United States, the requirements for business purposes remained nearly the same. Foreign halances show a large reduction, and the inference is that the fundscan be more profitably employed at home. This impression gains strength when scanning more closely the statements of the individual banks, for we find that nearly every dollar of this great reduction in foreign balances is found in one bank, and that the one possessed of the greatest stability and its management beyond peradventure. In this same bank is found nearly the whole of the reduction in deposits also. In the same month a year ago Government deposits were reduced over 21 millions, this year only a fraction of that amount, so that changes of importance in the ordinary course of business are owing considerably to the shrewdness of the management for investing their surplus funds where they yield the best returns. We note from month to month the increase of loans to mercan. Hardly be fair to make comparison from a general prostile borrowers. No doubt it may be said they have period of view, as in that period the prosecution

the limit of the banking law. Our object in dealing with the statement is to ascertain the development of the country and its trade, and to keep our readers in touch with the channels through which said trade develops. For purposes of comparison of the trade requirements we revert back to "bank notes in circulation, " and in order to give what we think a fair coarparison for the past ten years required for moving the crops, we present the following:-

BANK NOTES IN CIRCULATION.

1881		1886
Sept. \$50.755-589 Oct. 35.034,308 Nov. 35.145:292	average \$33,311,063	Sept. \$31,927,050 average. Oct. 35,322,015 \$34,169,803 Nov. 35,260,345
1882		1557
Sept. 33,933,387 Oct. 37,940,516 Nov. 37,180,397	\$36,385,101	Sept. 33,765,609 Oct. 37,012,342 Nov. 35,163,321
1883		1888
Sept. 33,445,845 } Oct. 35,553,243 } Nov. 34,007,350 }	\$;4,2;5,513	Sept. 32.913,526 Oct. 36,246,775 Nov. 36,660,933
12221		1553
Sept. 31,156,024 Oct. 32,005,029 Nov. 33,033,935	કુણુન્યુઇકાઉ કુ	Sept. 32,535,429 (kt. 35,235,310) \$34,540,523 Sov. 34,899,830
1555		1899
Sept. 31,334,621 } Oct. 34,576,246 }	533.204.600	Sept. 35.522.319)

It will be seen that the three months ending with Nov., 1890, gives the largest average of the ten years, excepting the single year 1882, with which it would reached large proportions, but they are kept well within for the work on the Canadian Pacific Railway gave an impetus to note circulation outside the lines of ordinary trade. The excellent and seasonable weather of the past month has been favorable to trade no doubt, and the December statement bids fair to be favorable, though with the general tightening tendency in financial circles a falling off in the circulation would not be at all surprising. A further strengthening of the reserves, however, is not unlikely.

According to *Bradstreets*, the business failures in the United States for the second week in December were 341 as compared with 321 the preceding week, and 370 in the corresponding week of 1889. The total failures in the United States from January 1, 1890, to the middle of December were 9,842, as compared with 11,023 for a like period in 1889. For the same period in 1890 the failures in Canada were 1842, as against 1735 for the preceding year.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by Correspondents.

LETTER FROM TORONTO.

Editor Insurance and Finance Chronicle:-

Just how rebating goes on in this section is shown by a case which came under my notice recently. On a small risk where there was competition, the agent of a large American company offered the party a policy, with the first year's premium paid thereon, provided he would secure the agent another risk for the same amount. No stipulation was made as to the plan of insurance, but if the party selected a 15 year endowment, and put his friend in on the life plan, I am inclined to think Mr. Agent got more than he bargained for.

London, West, however, takes the palm for philanthropy on the part of an insurance agent. Possibly, the gentleman below referred to has grown wealthy, although his friends do not credit him with having a surplus of this world's goods. Let us assume that he follows the occupation of canvassing as a healty pastime, for surely it cannot be for gain, as he does not wait for competition, but opens his canvas by offering a big reduction from his printed table of rates! This man should be ostracized by all respectable companies, for the injury he is now doing is incalculable. The agents of assessment societies point to his actions, as a proof that the old-line companies' rates are excessive, and it is helping these concerns at the expense of the properly managed companies who are doing their utmost to stop the rebating business.

Your readers are probably aware, that in 1889 Mr. W. R. Meredith,Q.C., M.P.P., introduced a bill in the Ontario Legislature, providing that where an error is made by the insured as to age, it shall not void the contract, but the sum payable shall be the amount that the premium would purchase at the correct age. As the majority of the companies have a provision in their policies somewhat to this effect, the necessity for this addition to the Ontario Insurance Act is not generally understood. It appears about 3 years ago, Mr. W. R. Meredith was acting for the plaintiff in a suit against an insurance company to recover the amount of a policy. The defendant's company was represented by Mr. R. M. Meredith (now Judge). The defence was apparently weak, and as a last resort set up that the deceased had mis-stated his age, and in the terms of the contract and in law the policy was null and void. The case was adjourned, and counsel for the plaintiff, recognizing that the point raised was fatal to his client, agreed to a compromise. As the stated age was 25 and the actual 27, Mr. W. R. Meredith considered it a ease of great hardship to the plaintiff, and determined to bring in a bill to prevent a repetition of such a defence. The company referred to is not now issuing policies in the Dominion.

Among the successful institutions in this city may be included the Commercial Travelers' Association. Each member pays an annual fee of \$10, for which he has the privilege of using the recreation and reading rooms, of travelling on any railway in the Dominion at a rate of 2 cents per mile, and the right to carry a certain amount of excess baggage free. The association is about purchasing a \$40,000 building in this city, which, when completed, will give the members almost all the advantages of a About 12 years ago, the association would make an annual contract with some accident company to issue policies on the lives of the members. The rate was about \$3.50 per \$1.000, and this was paid for out of the \$10 annual fee. After a year or two, the association decided to carry the risk themselves. Their success exceeded their expectations, and about ten years ago they had accumulated a cash surplus of \$60,000. At this time, some of the old members proposed this surplus should be divided, while others thought they should pay something for members who died from other causes than accident. Ultimately it was decided to refer the subject to an actuary, and Mr. McCabe was selected. He formulated a scheme, which was adopted, whereby the beneficiary of a member dying from natural causes became entitled to receive a sum in proportion to his years of membership. The maximum was \$1,200 last year for 10 year members. In case of death by accident, \$1,000 is payable, unless the member has been in 9 or 10 years, when the amount payable would be \$1,080 and \$1,200 respectively, instead of the \$1,000. At the last annual meeting, Consulting Actuary Mr. McCabe presented his report, showing the membership to be some 3,100, while the amount paid beneficiaries last year was about \$23,000. The "Knights of the road" are carrying on this good work in a quiet and unostentatious manner, and have managed to accumulate a surplus cash fund of about \$150,000. This association must not be confounded with the Commercial Travelers' Mutual Benefit Society of this city. The latter is on the assessment plan, while the management and directorate are distinct from the other.

Cannot the Insurance Department take some action against the 7 year endowment societies that are overrunning this country like a Minnesota grasshopper plague? Superintendent Fitzgerald is, in my judgment, an excellent man for the position he occupies, and I confidently believe he will shortly, if possible, invoke the aid of the law to put an end to some of these unlicensed concerns. When these societies propose to issue 7 year endowment contracts, they seem to me to come within the meaning of the Dominion Insurance Act, and should be competled to make a deposit of \$50,000, and carry assets to cover the proper reserve required for a 7 year endowment. I referred to the modus operandi of these concerns in my last, and propose to agitate the subject again and again, in the hope that the powers at Ottawa will find some way to protect the companies who are complying with the law and paying the salaries and expenses of the Insurance Department. Word comes from Eastern Ontario that the representative of a "septennial society," hailing from Syracuse, N.Y., has induced parties holding policies in leading companies to drop them, by the outrageous promises made of an endowment for \$2 per month, and is roping in a large number "What is in a name"? Certainly it seems of members. attractive to the gullible in this instance, for the society referred to is called, "The Knights of Sobriety, Fidelity and Integrity."

Mr. J. K. Macdonald, managing director of the Confederation Life Association, has been elected president of the "Equal Rights Association" here. Mr. R. S. Baird, the successful city agent of the same company, has been elected president of the Reform Association. The same gentleman is a member of the Public School Board, and is credited with making a useful and excellent member. His name has been mentioned for aldermanic hours. I know very little of the gentleman, but the opinion is expressed that a half dozen life agents like him in our Council chamber would be of more benefit in three months to the city

than a like number of our present representatives have been in the past 12 months.

It is understood that Mr. Mark Cohen has severed his connection with the New York Life, and now represents the Equitable. Mr. Chas. R. Burt, the secretary of that staunch fire company, the Connecticut of Hartford, spent a few days lately in the city. He has been visiting the different agencies of the company in Canada, and those of our insurance men who met this gentleman express themselves as favorably impressed with him and with his business ability. The company is in excellent hands here, viz., Mr. E. P. Pearson, who also has the Northern of England.

P. B. P.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

Editor Insurance and Finance Chronicle:-

One of the most noteworthy events of the past month in the insurance world is the delivery of the presidential address to the Institute of Actuaries by Mr. Benjamin Newbatt. Mr. Newbatt is well known as a sound actuary, and also as the successful manager of the Clerical, Medical and General Life. He is likewise a man of wide culture and liberal sympathies, and his public utterances invariably attract the attention of the profession. The address was a very able one, though lengthy and somewhat discursive in its character. The language was untechnical, and therefore the untrained mind can readily grasp the arguments and appreciate the suggestions that were made-

I do not propose to enter upon a criticism of the address, but will mention one or two points of importance. One of these was the question of "management." Commenting upon the large increase in the numbers of the alumni of the Institute, and the proportionate decrease in the prizes they could attain in the form of managerships, etc., Mr. Newbatt expressed his regret, that too often the chief post in assurance companies was occupied by a man who had no actuarial training, while the trained actuary was relegated to a comparatively inferior position. He contended that "it was not for the good of assurance itself that power and knowledge should be thus dissociated;" but he rightly pointed out where the weakness of the professional actuary too often lies, viz., in his lack of the knowledge of men. Mr. Newbatt argues that, a priori, there is nothing in the training of an actuary that should unfit him for practical work. The fact nevertheless remains that the all-absorbing nature of the studies which occupy the mind of the candidate for the honors of the Institute tends to contract the mental range, and renders the actuary too frequently indifferent to the all-important study of men. The saying, quot hamines tot sententiae, is profoundly true respecting a large staff of agents and the body of policyholders, and the actuary who aspires to the post of manager should be an adept in dealing with mental idiosyneracies; otherwise, his career is not likely to be a successful one. In order therefore to complete his education, the actuary should spend a year or two-and not less-in the visitation of agents and personal communication with policyholders, opportunities for which occur almost daily. He would thus acquire a knowledge of the practical working of a life office, which can be obtained in no other way. He may possess the soundest views respecting the relation of a to a, and be able to demonstrate with most admirable clearness the astonishing powers of n_i but unless he can assist, aye, and sympathize with agents and others in their difficulties, he will be grievously disappointed. The actuarial vertebre are liable to be covered with a mathematical crust which produces an abnormal rigidity; and if the company he manages is to prosper, this rigid structure must somehow be flexed, the extent of the flexion being measured by the experience gained in every-day life. Personally, I hold that the chief officer of a life company should be the actuary; but I fear that until actuaries combine practice with theory more largely, the condition of things Mr. Newhatt deplores will continue.

Another topic of the address was the preparation of papers by the members of the Institute, which should in some degree occupy the place of the thesis frequently demanded by many

examining bodies. One of the subjects suggested was an investigation of the census returns and the Registrar-general's reports, especially in relation to the improved mortality among the general population. On this question Mr. Newbatt properly observes that a great deal more has been made of it than is warranted from a life assurance point of view. I should much like to see the subject taken up by some competent hand, as much stress is laid upon the increased longevity of the population by opponents of the present system of life assurance. I need scarcely mention names. I believe that when carefully analyzed, the mortality tables will show that the improved death rate is mainly due to the survival of a number of "weaklings," whose existence has been prolonged solely through the influence of more favorable environments created by improved sanitation and larger medical and surgical knowledge. But from a professional and evolutionary peint of view, I believe these survivals will be found to be by no means "the fittest."

STATE LIFE ASSURANCE.

Stimulated possibly by the action of the German government. and ignorant probably of the results that attended Canon Blackley's scheme some four or five years back, Dr. Hunter, M.P. for Aberdeen, has announced his intention of asking Government to appoint a select committee for the examination of a scheme of State aided assurance, which he has devised. As far as can be judged at present, he wishes to secure the following advantages: (1) In the event of a workman's premature death, an allowance to the family of 10s, per week until the youngest child has attained the age of 16. (2) In the event of the workman being totally disabled, by accident or otherwise, an allowance of 10s, per week for life. (3) On the workman attaining 65 years of age, a pension of ros. per week. In order to provide for these benefits, Dr. Hunter proposes that is, per week shall be paid by each person assured, from the ages of 20 to 60, one half of that sum to be deducted from the wages by the employer, and the other half to be contributed by the State. The Parliamentary committee that reported on Canon Blackley's plan laid emphasis on the fact, that no competent actuarial authority had sanctioned it, and I am informed by friends in the profession that the premium of 1s. per week is wholly inadequate to secure the advantages enumerated. Dr. Hunter indeed says that his scheme is backed up by eminent actuarial opinion; but as he does not mention the name, we are in the dark as to who the eminent one may be, while we remember that eminence is distinctly a relative quality. One strong objection arises in regard to Dr. Hunter's proposal which, as a canny Scot, he can scarcely have ignored. I men the uncertainty that the assured will always be able to contribute his half of the premium through non employment, either by reason of bad trade or as the result of strikes. The latter causes a disurbing element in the calculations that must certainly be considered.

"MOST FAVORED" CLASS ASSURANCE.

I mentioned in my last latter, that the doctors had been feeling the pulses of the life managers, with a view to detect any symptoms of henevolence that might exist towards them as a class. In a supplement to the Lancel, dated the 15th ulto4 the editor publishes a carefully prepared résumé of the managerial replies to his circular. From this résumé I gather, that a very few offices only undertake to allow the medical profession the usual commission where an assurrance is effected without the intervention of the much abused "middlemen." The majority of the companies do not seem to have committed themselves to any allowance, but have skillfully utilized the pages of the Lancel to advertise, without expense, their special features more or less elaborately. Several offices of standing did not send any reply at all.

The hint that I gave you as to the possibility of other sections of the community seeking to become the "most favored" was not misplaced. Following in the wake of the civil servants and medicals, the school teachers and bank officials have been putting out "feelers" for special terms. The latter class has actually obtained from the English and Scottish Law Life assur-

ance concessions, the more prominent of which are specified below: (1) Provided the bank officers, as a body, assure simultaneously, policies varying from £100 to £500 in amount will be granted without examination under easy conditions. (2) Assurances to be effected at tabular rates, but only under nonprofit limited payment tables. (3) At the expiration of 7 years, provided the assured is in active service, he may call upon the association to grant him within three months-a second policy, with premium at the then age for an amount not exceeding the first policy. No examination to be required, and no conditions to be made, save and except that if the assured shall die within 9 months from the date of the second assurance, the association shall not be liable to pay the sum assured, but only to return the premiums without interest. (4) At the expiration of a second period of 7 years the assured may exercise a similar option under the same condition. (5) The usual agents commission to be allowed the assured on his own policy and on any other that he may be instrumental in effecting.

I hear that the North British and Mercantile has granted policies to civil servants under the recent contract, to the extent of £500,000; and also that two claims have arisen, one from the relatives of a person who was in a moribund condition when his policy was granted. In regard to the practice of "discrimination," inaugurated by the North British, I should not be surprised if the Life Managers' Association in London were to issue a pronunciamento severely condemnatory in its tone. It is surely derogatory for the managers of life companies to emulate hucksters_and_buttermongers, by quoting cut prices and issuing invidious advertisements.

LIFE ASSURANCE IN FRANCE.

You are probably aware that the French government reserves to itself the right of regulating the investments of the native life companies. It is now proposed (possibly in retaliation for the Mc. Kinley Bill) that a law shall be passed by the Senate, compelling every foreign insurance company to obtain an official authorization to prosecute its business, such authority to be given after an examination of the position and statutes of the company. Every foreign company will be required to invest one-half of all premiums payable in France in French government bonds, and likewise the interest on the same and the stock is to be lodged with the Caisse des dépots et consignations, where they will be kept as a guarantee for the safety of French policyholders. Every foreign company will be required to publish annually a full statement of business transacted in France, and any person effecting a policy with an unauthorized company will be subjected to a heavy fine. Twelve months will be allowed to the foreign companies to enable them to comply with the government requisitions. There is no doubt that the bill will become law, and what will be the ultimate effect upon the American and other companies doing business in France remains to be seen.

LONDON, Dec. 15, 1890.

VIGILANS.

Notes and Items.

The Manchester Fire was, on the 23rd ult., admitted to transact business in Massachusetts.

Extensive water works are to be constructed at Galt, at an expense of over \$100,000, the contract having been let.

The Germania Fire insurance company of Cincinnati, O., organized in 1864, has decided to reinsure its business and retire.

A press dispatch from Brampton, Ont., says that W. D. Hunter, the insurance agent who left suddenly not long since, has been heard from in Chicago, and that it is thought likely he will return.

A new plate-glass insurance company is in process of organization in New York, with a capital of \$100,000.

Rumors are still current that the formation of a strong insurance company at Liverpeol is going on quietly but surely.

An interim dividend of 25s, per share has been ordered by the directors of the Guardian, being at the rate of 5 per cent, per annum.

The Middle States Inspection Bureau now has 29 companies in its membership, the latest accession being the Western of Toronto.

The Minneapolis Mutual Fire insurance company adds one more to the long list of defunct mutuals, having been placed in the hands of a receiver.

Our thanks are due the publishers for a bound volume of the *Indicator* for 1890. Our Detroit contemporary is wide-awake and always a welcome visitor.

Under date of Nov. 25, the directors of the Glasgow and London insurance company have issued a call on its shareholders for £1 per share on all ordinary shares.

The Union Assurance Society is a regular board company wherever it goes. It joined the New Brunswick board nearly a month ago—on December 4, statements to the contrary notwithstanding.

A new fire insurance company has been organized in Portland, Maine, with \$100,000 capital. It is called the "Insurance Company of the Republic." President, Geo. E. Bird; secretary, Chas. F. Tuttle.

An extensive fire occurred in London on Queen, Victoria and Thames streets on Tuesday of this week, which baffled for a time the efforts of the not too efficient fire brigade, and caused a loss of about \$1,500,000.

Forty-nine years ago Mr. Wm. Stewart of New Orleans took a policy for \$3,000 in the Mutual Life of New York, allowing his dividends to remain with the company to purchase additional insurance. It is now worth \$9,000.

The defaulting cashier, Eugene Piquet, of the New York office of the Lancashire, whose disappearance with several thousand dollars of the company's money we recorded several weeks ago, has been found and arrested in Geneva, Switzerland.

The fine large building of the Canada Life at Toronto is completed and about ready for occupancy. It is located on King street, is built of granite, sandstone and brick, seven stories in height, and has a high tower thirty feet square. It is a solid home for a solid company.

We notice that the London Life insurance company of Ontario gives notice in the Canadian Gazette of intention to apply to the next session of Parliament at Ottawa, for amendments to the acts respecting the company, "in relation to investments of moneys by the company, the appointment of trustees of moneys and investments as security for policyhoiders, or any class thereof, the making of calls upon shares in the company, and passing of by-laws, the creation and setting apart of separate classes of policies or branches of business, and in other respects."

The London Assurance Corporacion will apply to Parliament for additional powers, among others that of owning stock, should occasion arise, in any foreign insurance company. It is not anticipated that this power will be exercised, but is desired as a measure of precaution.

Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, had a destructive fire the other day, wiping out something like \$\$0,000 warth of property, of which about \$43,000 was insured. Now would be a good time for that Walkerton committee to interview the Yarmouth people on the economy of buying or not buying insurance protection.

It having been claimed by the American Surety company that it was exempted, as a guarantee company from the New York State tax of one-eighth of one per cent, levied by the comptroller on insurance companies, the matter has been passed upon by the Supreme Court, which decides that the company is liable.

Another mutual fire insurance company, the Union Mutual of Cincinnati, goes under, as the result of an examination by the Ohio insurance department. The attorney-general of the State inaugurates proceedings to wind up the company, which seems to have been crookedly managed and never legally organized.

An Illinois court has decided that unintentional neglect to pay an assessment due five days before his death, by the Rev. Dr. Adams, president of the Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington, did not forfeit his \$10,000 certificate in the Mutual Reserve Fund Life of New York, and the association will have to pay \$10,260 to his widow.

The closing hours of the old year witnessed two pretty good sized fires, at Montreal and at Halifax. That in Montreal was on buildings and stock corner of St. Paul and St. Gabriel streets, and resulted in a total loss of about \$60,000, involving insurance to the extent of about \$37,500. The Halifax fire is reported at about \$40,000, total loss.

The firm of Selby and Rolland, the provincial managers of the Manufacturers' Life and Accident, will hereafter be known as Selby, Roland & Lyman, Mr. Walter E. Lyman, formerly in the life department of the Crtizens, now being associated with Messrs. Selby and Roland. Mr. Lyman will no doubt find this connection an excellent one.

We noted, some weeks ago, the re-insurance by the Caledonian of the Eastern business of the Anglo-Nevada, including of course its Massachusetts business. The Caledonian has not yet been admitted to Massachusetts, and Insurance Commissioner Merrill, will try and collect a fine of \$500 from the Anglo-Nevada for reinsuring its Massachusetts risks in an unauthorized company.

Three of our exchanges come out this year with attractive Holiday numbers—the Chronicle, the United States Review, and the Insurance Record. The Chronicle number is in addition to its regular issue, and filled with original contributed articles from well known underwriters and insurance journalists, and has several pages filled with well executed cartoons. The Record also abounds in original illustrations, and has several meaty contributed articles; while the Review, following last year's model, has an emb-lished covernany selected illustrations, considerable Christmas poetry and prose miscellany, and is strong in insurance literature.

We understand that the Citizens has re-insured in a licensed company one half of the entire liability of the Glasgow & London insurance company as at December 31st ult. This will preserve to the Citizens the full benefit of the G. & L. connection purchased by it, and will at the same time largely reduce its liability. A good move on the part of Manager Heaton.

A new building law is to be recommended by the city council of Boston for adoption by the Legislature, limiting the maximum height of buildings in that city to 120 feet, and providing that, within that limit, no building shall be higher than two and a-half times the width of the street on which it stands. Some stringent construction regulations are also embodied in the proposed law.

The Court of Review, in the case of Taylor *et al.* against the Northern Assurance Co., has just aunounced its decision, the conclusion of which is that the Court is ready to enter judgment for \$10,000 if the plaintiffs aquiesce; if not, a new statement of facts will be ordered and a new trial had. The verdict of the jury in the Superior Court, it will be recollected, was for \$14,000.

After so long a time, two of the wreckers of the American Life and the Bank of America at Philadelphia, viz.: Geo. F. Work and Louis E. Pfeiffer, have been arrested for transactions with fraudulent intent against the two institutions, and in default of \$20,000 bail each were sent to jail. John J. McFarlane, the notorious president of the American Life, is still at large with his whereabouts unknown.

The leverage of advanced rates to bring people to their senses was illustrated recently at Haywards, Cal., where the town council voted to compel every insurance agent to pay a license tax of \$35, as a means for making the insurance companies help pay the town's expenses. A prompt 25 per cent. advance in rates in that town persuaded the law-makers that they didn't want to tax the agents after all.

We notice that President Hyde of the Equitable Life has sent a circular to the presidents of all the life companies as a supplement to his proposition of Dec. 5, commented on elsewhere in our columns, suggesting an agreement between "the six or more presidents of the largest life companies" not to "steal" each others agents. In the circular Mr. Hyde proposes a conference on the subject between all the companies, great and small.

The management of the Northwestern department of the Royal, with headquarters at Chicago, has been re-arranged. Mr. E. L. Allen, of the firm of C. H. Case & Co., heretofore the managers, retires from the firm, and becomes manager for the Northwest, while Messrs. C. H. Case and E. B. Case continue under the firm name of Case & Co., as agents for Chicago and Cook county. The latter firm and Mr. Allen both report directly to Liverpool.

A very commendable plan has been adopted by the teaching profession of Great Britain for the better information of its members on the subject of life assurance. An organization, known as the "Teachers' Guild," has asked the various life offices to furnish a brief statement of their several plans, including annuities, with schedule of premiums, age and financial condition of company, with other specified information, all of which the Guild will embody in a succinct form for distribution to teachers.

Armstrong's Mutual Fire Insurance Company sought admission to Tennessee and was refused, whereupon the company applied to the courts for a mandamus compelling the insurance commissioner to issue a liceuse. The case went to the Supreme Court, which has affirmed the decree of the court refusing the mandamus. The Tennessee statute says a company to be admitted to the State must have a cash capital of not less than \$200,000.

The Supreme Court of New York has decided, in the case of Cecilia Templeton, widow of John Templeton, against the Mutual Benefit Association of New York, that the omission of the name of a beneficiary in a life insurance policy does not relieve the company from liability to the estate of the assured. By mistake the beneficiary's name was not written in the policy (which was for \$10,000), and the association sought unsuccessfully to evade payment.

Here is a good one from the St. John, N.B., Globe: "Mr. J. Me. C. Snow is a general insurance agent at Moncton. A few days ago he received the following letter from a Frenchman at the North Shore: 'Mister Snow,—I write to let you know I burnt my house last week. I have her insured. Come up and pay me my money.' It is not definitely known whether or not Mr. Snow hired a special train for the North Shore when he received the above."

For some weeks past a special committee of the New England Insurance Exchange has been engaged in the formation of a new rate schedule for dwelling house risks. The report of the committee, after laying over and receiving careful consideration, has been recommended by the Exchange. The rates are lower than the old rates, but still higher than those of the mutuals. The schedule goes to the local boards of Massachusetts for adoption or rejection.

It made a difference.—Husband—"My goodness, wife! The insurance on our house ran out to-day and I forgot to renew it. Where do you keep the kerosene?" Wife—"In the kitchen closet." "Have it carried out doors at once. What sort of matches are we using? Parlor matches? Burn every one of them, and bring cown your great-grand-mother's tinder-box from upstairs; then send the servants to bed before the moon is down, and make sure that the kitchen range is fixed right. I'll attend to the furnace myself."—A. I. Hickly.

In its annual review of the lake marine business for 1890, the Chicago Tribune says: "Harmony has prevailed among the companies engaged in lake underwriting, and ruinous competition has been avoided. The volume of business was large, and the results show, notwithstanding numerous losses and a few serious ones, a fair profit to nearly all the companies interested. Underwriters have found ore, lumber and coal moderately profitable, although extremely low rates have prevailed. Grain insurance has again proven a source of large revenue to the companies."

It seems that we were misinformed with reference to the defendant in the case of Gilbranson, tried at Hamilton against the A. O. U. W., as reported in our issue of November 1, the real defendant being the "Relief Society of the A. O. U. W." So we are informed at this late date by a letter from Mr. John Milne, G. M. of the A. O. U. W. for Ontario. This only shifts the odium of the transaction from the grand body of the order to what would seem from its name to be a branch of that body, though Mr. Milne informs us that this society is distinct from the order.

The North American Life, we notice, now issues a form of policy called the "Compound Investment Policy," which, in case the assured lives to the end of the investment period, provides for five options in settlement, all on a liberal basis. The feature, however, which will attract most attention consists of a provision, that, if the assured die after the eleventh premium has been paid and before the termination of the investment period, the eleventh and all subsequent premiums paid will be returned, as a dividend, with the face of the policy. It is also provided that the 11th and subsequent premiums paid will, if desired, be lent at six per cent, interest to the assured, and in the event of his death before the completion of the investment period no deduction from the policy will be made, the guarantee dividend cancelling the loan.

Calendars for 1891.—Among the calendars received this year the most noticeable are: the Commercial Union, presenting, with artistic surroundings, views of the home and branch offices; the Guardian, in gold and colors, with an appropriate central figure; the London and Lancashire Life, a model of the engraver's art in colors and gold; the Atlas, with striking headpiece and useful calendar; the National of Ireland in green (not forgetting the shamrock) and gold, the calendar sheets in artistic shading of colors; the Western Assurance, very large, in colors, with full sheet calendar for each month; while of the less pretentious, but very neat and practical, we have the Citizens' of Canada, the Germania Life, the Northern, the Beaver Line, the Mecantile Fire of Waterloo, the Phænix of Hartford, London Life and others. The Standard Life, the North American Life, and the Western of Toronto issue convenient pocket memorandum calendars, and the London and Lancashure Life, besides its wall calendar, presents a most desirable and expensive desk calendar in leather frame, with monthly adjustable tablets.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Mr. N. B. Gunn, assistant actuary, has been appointed secretary of the Standard Life, as successor to Secretary Gregor, recently retired.

Mr. E. D. LACY, of this city, Dominion manager of the Imperial Fire, was recently presented by the office staff with a life-like portrait of himself, done in oil, as a holiday souvenir.

MR. GEO. F. SMITH, late general agent of the Queen Insurance Company, and now assistant manager of the New England Factory Insurance Association, will, it is said, succeed to Manager F. W. Whiting's place

Mr. H. H. STOVEL, the efficient superintendent at Winnipeg of the London Life Insurance Company, died recently in the railway depot at West Lynne. He was apparently in good health a few minutes before his death.

MR. CHARLES W. PIERCE, of New York, whose pithy paragraphs, under the nom de plume of "Argus." have for some time been a notable feature of the Insurance World of Pittsburg, is hereafter to be assistant editor of that journal. We congratulate our contemporary on this valuable acquisition to its editorial force.

Mr. J. B. Reed, the well-known general insurance agent of Toronto, has been appointed the agent for that city of the London Assurance, having we understand relinquished the agency of the Queen. Mr. Reed also represents the Liverpool and London and Globe and the Laucashire. Mr. Maughan is associated with Mr. Reed. Manager Lilly is to be congratulated on having secured such a valuable connection for the London.

MR. H. D. P. ARMSTRONG, general agent at Toronto of the Guardian, was in Montreal during the past week and called at our sauctum.

MR. WHATM WOOD, of New York, United States manager of the United Fire Re insurance Company, made the CHRONICLE a pleasant call this week.

Mr. Whalam Surron, ex-president of the Institute of Actuaries, has been appointed actuarial adviser to the British Board of Trade—the position occupied by the late Mr. Vaughan.

MR A.M.M. KIRKPACRICK, the former representative at Toronto of the Lendon Assurance, has become associated with Mr. T. R. Wood, the Toronto general agent of the Etna Fire of Hartford.

Mr. F. S. Sharp, manager of the Imperial Trusts Co. of Canada at St. John, N. B., was a recent caller. He intends to give his attention to looking after the interests of fire insurance companies in the Lower Pro-

MR. JOHN HUTCHISON, for some time with Mr. T. R. Wood, general agent at Toronto of the Ætna Fire, has been appointed cashier and bookkeeper by manager F. W. Evans, of Wood & Evans, at the Montreal office of the Ætna, Hartford and London and Lancashire.

Mr. A. H. Guarter, of Toronto, we learn goes to New York as assistant manager of the Anglo-American Savings and Loan Association. Mr. Gilbert, it will be remembered, was for several years with the Sun Life and later superintendent of the Manufacturers,' which he left some time since.

MR. D. CLUNIE GREGOR, on retiring from the secretaryship of the Standard Life, after a service of forty-three years, was presented with a valuable service of plate as a token of the esteem in which he was held. The company further recognize his faithful service by allowing him a pension.

DR. JOHN DAVIS, the well-known president of the Union Central Life of Cincinnati, O., died suddenly at his home on Christmas night, aged 70 years. Dr. Davis was one of the founders of the Union Central Life twenty-three years ago, and for many years had been its president. He was one of the most prominent of the medical profession in the Ohio Valley, one of the founders of Miami Medical College and for a time a member of its faculty, occupied a place on the boards of several educational institutions, was president of the Citizens League of Cincinnati, and a prominent figure in moral and philanthropic enterprises. His loss will be severely felt by the company of which he was the head, the community in which he was a power, the church of which he was an ornament, and his family and friends by whom he was beloved.

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From The Budget. Toronto.

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From The Chronicle, New York.

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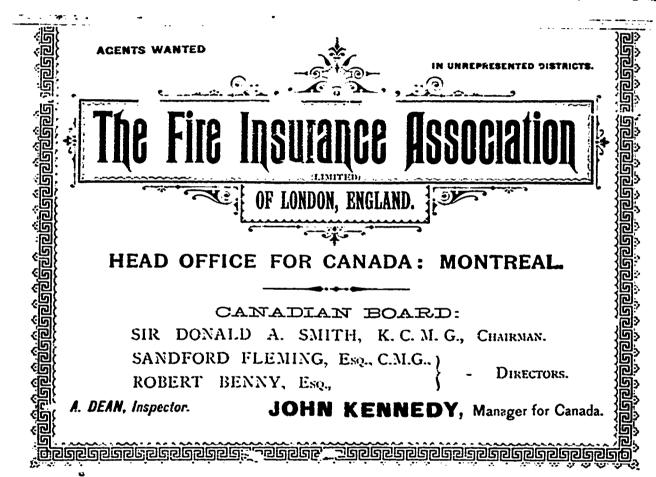
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