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Insurance and Finance CHRONICLE.

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FOLLOWING OUR USUAL midsummer custom, we shall probably issue a *double number* of the CHRONICLE on August 1st, next, omitting the issue for July 15. We shall thus serve the double purpose of giving our readers "a rest," and our editorial staff a much needed vacation among the green hills and beside the "purling brooks," where the festive trout waits to welcome the seductive bait, and the musquito sings his enchanting strains to make rural life an unalloyed pleasure.

BY REFERENCE TO the record of the life companies during 1891, on their Canadian business, published on another page, it will be seen that a decided improvement has taken place all around in the matter of lapses. The aggregate of lapses is less by \$1,637,522 than for the previous year, the average percentage of all companies to mean amount of assurance in force being 6.20, as compared with 7.27 in 1890. This improvement is shared by all three classes of companies—Canadian, British, and American, the ratio of lapses being about the same with the Canadian and American, and some what less with the British. The decrease in amount of lapses, as between the two years named, was, for the Canadian companies, \$1,127,148; for the American companies, \$334,850; and for the British companies, \$180,526. It is certainly an encouraging feature of the life business in Canada that the tendency is toward stability among policyholders, though it must be admitted that there is still abundant room for improvement. Better methods on the part of the companies and a growing knowledge of the benefits of life insurance on the part of the people both tend toward this stability.

THE MANIA ON the part of a certain class of people in England to have the Government adopt some coddling

scheme for the dear people, who don't want it, under the guise of a pension or half-insurance scheme, gets cold water applications pretty often. The latest protest and one of the best, for it goes to the fundamental weakness of the scheme, is from the influential Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows. Their declaration is: "For the State to assume that a man in these days is not in a position to earn sufficient to put by to keep himself in old age without assistance from the State must have a most demoralizing effect, is impolitic on natural grounds, and calculated to destroy that independence of character that has done so much in the past history of our country to raise and elevate the people and encourage thrift upon the only true and correct basis—industry, self-help and self-denial." English workingmen are not paupers, and any attempt of the Government to treat them as such will meet with signal failure. The friendly societies and industrial insurance institutions are abundant, and can furnish all needed benefits at rates within the ability of every industrious, worthy citizen.

A DAILY NEWSPAPER of New York, the *Recorder*, has lately sought to attract attention by leading in an attack on the insurance companies because of the adoption of the co-insurance feature and so badly overdid the matter as to make itself ridiculous. Its mis-statements and absurd conclusions from false premises having been amply met and annihilated by the New York insurance press, the blatant journal above named now essays a crusade against British companies, and would have its readers believe that these "English insurance leeches" are making big profits out of the American public and shipping them home in cargoes. The *Weekly Underwriter*, in half a dozen sentences, makes the *Recorder* more ridiculous than ever by citing the simple fact that but three of these companies have ever sent any money back to England, while all of them have brought large amounts over to this side, and that, in the aggregate, not only has no money been taken out of the country, but, on the contrary, they have paid in losses and expenses and have invested in the United States several millions more than they have received for premiums and interest! The misfortune of the recklessly false statements made by a portion of the daily press is that a good many honest, uninformed

people accept them as being true, and it is as hard for the truth to overtake a lie about insurance as it is any other kind of lie.

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO we called attention to the new enactments of the Legislature of New Brunswick imposing a provincial tax upon fire insurance companies, whose principal office is not in that province, of one per cent. on all net premiums and an additional lump tax of \$100 each. Also the taxation of life companies \$250 each. In another column will be found the action of the New Brunswick Board of Fire Underwriters, recently, with reference to this additional tax burden, the substance of which is, that as rates have already been fixed at the lowest possible point the only just way to meet this additional expense is to add it to the rate. That is the proper solution of the question concerning the numerous municipal and provincial tax levies which are constantly being added to the Government taxes and fees required. It is quite time for the insuring public to understand that when their representatives make laws unduly taxing insurance, either fire or life, the cost of their insurance is being increased accordingly. It is the only way out for the companies, and though really a tax on the prudent forethought of those who insure their property or lives, the parties responsible for this are the law makers and not the insurance companies.

AMONG OTHER FEATURES of reform in the methods of late pursued by the life insurance companies to get business, we are glad to learn that the estimate evil is likely to find a place. Not that estimates of results reasonably expected under a given kind of policy may not be perfectly legitimate and proper in honest canvassing; for if made strictly on the basis of actual experience, due allowance being made for the interest-earning ability of the company in the future as compared with the past, and other modifying conditions, an estimate of the outcome of a policy at maturity cannot be justly criticised. Heretofore in many cases, such as a correspondent in another column refers to, not only have estimates either been furnished by the companies or winked at by their officers which were purposely deceptive and absurdly impossible of realization, but dishonest canvassers have not unfrequently played a confidence game with these estimates by treating them as *guarantees*. Companies cannot too soon get rid of such agents, nor can they too soon prohibit the use of any estimate whatever not emanating from the home office, and made on a basis of conservatism as to results and of honesty as to purpose. Any other kind will prove to be curses which like chickens, will surely come home to roost.

IT MAY BE remembered that at the annual convention of insurance commissioners of the United States in September last, a committee was appointed to consider the advisability of recommending a change of the reserve standard of life assurance companies from the present four per cent. to a three and a-half per cent. standard. At the recent convention at St. Paul, the committee reported having obtained the views of thirty-two

life companies on the subject, a large majority of whose officials replied that in their opinion the present and prospective rate of interest realized and realizable does not require any change from the existing standard those favoring a change agreeing that any new rate should apply only to future business. In this the committee concur, and seem to see no immediate necessity for a change. They therefore simply reported progress and the question was postponed till next year. In view of the very palpable fact, which we have more than once pointed out, that the diminution in the interest rate realized for the past half dozen years in the United States has been slight, and that the general average now realized on the total invested assets is more than 5 per cent., the convention did well to hang the subject up for contemplation and discussion rather than action.

WILD TALK ABOUT "INSURANCE COMBINES"

We are not at all surprised to find the *Daily Witness* of this city falling into the chronic habit of a large portion of the newspaper press, which periodically sets up a man of straw called "combination" when dealing with the subject of fire insurance, and pounds away at it with more valor than discretion. It is not to the credit of the daily press of our day that it neglects to become informed upon the important subject of fire underwriting, and yet essays to blindly indulge in criticisms and draw conclusions entirely erroneous and unjust to the companies, under the delusion that it champions the cause of the public. In commenting upon the recent fire insurance deal with the city of Montreal, and the circumstances which led up to it, the *Witness* for June 20 has a sling at the Fire Underwriters' Association, calls it an "insurance combine," and expresses satisfaction that the city secured the insurance from a portion of the companies belonging to the Association through brokers, without treating with the alleged "combine." As our contemporary is compelled to admit that the rate to be paid is precisely the same as was named by the Association at first, the grounds of satisfaction do not appear to the average mind, excepting on the theory that the said Association, being a combination detrimental to the interests of the public, should be treated as a common enemy whenever possible. A little more knowledge of the subject would, however, teach our friends of the daily press that fire underwriters associations are combinations in the direct interest of that same public.

And first of all, it ought to be understood that selling indemnity for fire loss is a very different thing from selling a yard of muslin or a ream of paper. In ordinary trading transactions the cost, and therefore the selling price, is a simple question of primary arithmetic, refreshing in its definiteness. What it will cost an insurance company to carry the risk on twenty or forty million dollars worth of property, scattered over a wide area of country, made up of scores of different classes, and having widely varying conditions as to surroundings, is a very intricate and difficult problem, and can only be solved, if at all, by a knowledge of the combined experiences of many companies for many years over a wide area. Fire insurance performs its

legitimate function when the rate is made to fit the risk, and this can only be done, approximately, when a large number of companies are able to make a general average, according to class of risk and surroundings, by mutual consultation as to the results of individual experiences. The difficulty has always been, that in the sharp competition for business, underwriters' associations are seldom held for any great length of time so closely together as to get the best results based on a common experience. It ought to be apparent to the merest tyro that the more perfect the combination among fire insurance companies for the exchange of mutual knowledge the easier it will be to fix equitable rates, and the nearer correct the rates the better for the insuring public. We wish to emphasize the simple, historic, incontrovertible fact, that the effect of fire underwriters' associations is to fix, not the highest, but the lowest rates at which the companies can carry a certain class of risks. It is only ignorance of the subject that leads many people and some newspapers to raise the cry of "insurance combine" whenever the companies associate themselves under very necessary rules and regulations to first discover and then to maintain proper rates. The plain history of the business will show any inquiring mind two things:

In the first place, the results of fire underwriting for a long period prove that the profit has been a moderate one for the best managed and most fortunate companies, while a very large number have been so blessed by the alleged "exorbitant rates," about which so much is said, that they have died the death of the righteous. In Canada about a score of companies,—two within the past year,—have been starved out of existence by feeding on low rates and big losses, while in the United States during the single year ending with April, 1892, forty-seven joint-stock companies failed or withdrew from business, taking about eight and a-half millions of dollars out of a business too unprofitable to continue. What did enormous rates do for the business in Canada in 1891? Well, the companies altogether managed, after paying about 64 per cent. of the premiums for losses and over 30 per cent. for necessary current expenses, to save a paltry six per cent. out of the premiums. After paying a decent return for the use of the capital employed, how much "profit" remains? But this is for a single year. How about a series of years? A good deal worse, according to the statistics of the government blue book, which informs us that from 1869 to 1891 inclusive, a period of 23 years, the companies in Canada received for premiums \$92,010,115, and paid for losses \$63,788,763, or over 69 per cent. of the former. Allowing 30 per cent. for expenses, and the balance of one per cent. represents the underwriting "profit." In the United States during 1891 the American and British companies combined paid out for losses and expenses \$97.83 for each \$100 of premiums received, leaving the magnificent balance of \$2.17 as "profit" from their "high rate" business. If we take the experience of the same companies since 1880, a period of eleven years, we find that losses and expenses absorbed 93.5 per cent. of the

premiums. During this period the loss ratio was 58.5 and the expense ratio 35 per cent.

In the second place, experience demonstrates that underwriting associations have not, for any considerable period, operated to increase the premium rate, badly as such a result is needed. The record proves that for the past ten years the average rate in Canada has been at a pretty uniform figure, showing alternately a slight reduction and a slight increase. As between 1882 and 1891 the increase in rate has been only a trifle over ten cents on each \$100 insured, and since 1886 less than *one third of a cent*, or just nothing at all. In the United States from 1870 to 1880 the rate *decreased* seven cents per \$100, and did not get back until 1884, since fluctuating slightly, until in 1891 it stood at about the 1880 figure, or seven cents lower than in 1884, and four cents lower than the general average for the entire period from 1860—thirty-one years. And yet, with all these facts accessible, intelligent people and reputable journals talk about "insurance combines" as designed for and resulting in an increase of the premium rate! There is really no class of business in the world where associated effort is so necessary for the interests of the companies and the public alike as that of fire insurance, and scarcely any other business which is so badgered and hampered because of this very associated effort. Broader knowledge of what fire underwriting is and requires, and better acquaintance with its history will, we trust, in time win for it fairer treatment.

THE ONTARIO INQUISITION ONCE MORE.

In our last issue we printed extensive selections from the "Insurance Corporations Act, 1892," of Ontario, and took occasion to call attention to some of the most burdensome provisions of the Act, especially the compulsory registration, with exacting fees, of fire insurance companies already licensed by the Dominion authorities. The law provides that the form of application for such registry shall be altogether at the discretion of the Registrar, who is the Insurance Inspector for the Province. That application, the points of which we noted, involves an inquisition on the part of the above named official such as no subordinate government has anywhere ever instituted into the affairs of an insurance company. We challenge the production of any parallel, at least on this continent or anywhere else within the boundaries of the United Kingdom. An examination of the Act shows that in a large number of points the companies are subject to the arbitrary "rulings" of the Registrar, and though provision is made in certain cases for an appeal to the courts, on many important points that official is a law unto himself. We speak without any personal reference to the present incumbent when we say that it was a very hazardous thing for the rights of the companies to relegate to the personal caprice of the Registrar any ruling for which the plain letter of the Act might have provided. Already it has been ruled, as we are informed, that under sub-sections 22 and 23 of section 2 the deposit of the registry application fee must be made in Toronto before the application itself from the head

office is received,—no considerable hardship in itself, we admit, but clearly illustrative of the working of the official mind to reach a conclusion which never would have occurred to the average man. The Act makes possible the interposition of numerous obstructions and exasperating annoyances to the companies, aside from its expressed provisions, and, when considered in connection with the latter, constitutes a system of inquisitorial supervision for which there is no warrant in good law or sound reason.

Dropping all minor questions relating to the expediency of such provisions as are several which are found in the Act, we recur to the fundamental objection to which we referred in our former article, viz., that the main requirements relating to registry are in the nature of an interference with vested rights guaranteed by the supreme law of the Dominion. Either the laws enacted by the Federal Parliament, made up of representatives from every province, are supreme in every province, or the idea of confederation is delusive and the Government a farce. The members of the late Ontario Legislature are not, we take it, either ready or inclined to adopt the latter view. If, then, the insurance companies are legally subject to the laws and regulations of the general Government—and nobody denies it—they are under its protection, and they certainly do hold its warrant to transact business on the terms prescribed under the Dominion laws anywhere and everywhere in the Dominion. The Ontario Act squarely denies them this right, by interposing certain burdensome conditions and visiting upon them certain penalties if, without the observance of these conditions, they undertake to do just what the Federal Government authorizes them to do. That is the whole case in a nutshell, and no side issues or special pleadings can alter the case. Whether the various companies will finally consent to become the subjects of this new and, as we believe, illegal inquisition as less troublesome to put up with than to fight it, we do not know; but if they conclude to test it in the courts, to the last resort if need be, they will not only have defended their own rights but helped to settle a question of first importance to every citizen of Canada.

THE GUARDIAN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

For the seventieth time the Guardian gives to the world the annual record of its business, this time for the year 1891. A summary of the detailed report is given elsewhere in our columns, and shows, as usual prosperity in the life branch, with a growth of funds. In the fire branch, however, in common with nearly all other companies, the experience has been anything but satisfactory. The premium receipts were large, amounting, after deducting re-insurances, to \$2,841,395, but the losses were also large, and reached the sum of \$1,848,570. After providing for the premium reserve (which, by the way, is maintained for 1891 at nearly fifty per cent. of the year's premiums), calling for a somewhat less amount than was laid aside for the previous year, and adding the income from interest to the premiums, the company was able to show a balance of \$141,765 on the right side. The cost of acquiring the

business and good-will of re-insured companies and a small investment loss (in all \$46,135) was deducted from the above balance, leaving \$95,630 to be carried to proprietors' account. In the light of last year's adverse underwriting experience, the solid strength of the Guardian, however, appears all the more conspicuously. With a more than ample premium reserve fund, now \$1,440,500, with a further general reserve fund for fire business of \$1,950,000, and with a cash capital of \$5,000,000—the largest of any company in the world—the fact that a single year's experience may have been profitless counts only as an incident, to be named but scarcely remembered. It was long ago demonstrated that the Guardian is habitually on the winning side, and moves steadily in a forward line unaffected by an occasional deflection. Under its present skillful manager, Mr. A. J. Relton, the fire department of the company may be depended upon to achieve success wherever it is possible.

In the life branch, the report shows very satisfactory results. The completed new business amounted to \$2,027,085 under 641 policies, and the total premium receipts to \$954,575, besides consideration for annuities, \$165,180. The income from interest was \$505,140, and the total income \$1,625,215. The amount paid for claims was about normal, while the expenses were very moderate, not quite 13.5 of the premiums. The total expenditure in this branch was \$1,407,430, leaving the snug sum of \$217,785 to be added to the assurance funds, which now amount to \$12,630,650. The handling of this branch reflects credit upon the secretary and actuary, Mr. T. G. C. Browne, long in charge of its affairs. Altogether, the total assets of the company now amount to \$22,543,100.

Of the Guardian and its position and prospects in Canada we have heretofore freely spoken in terms of deserved commendation, and we are now pleased to be able to add, that during the few months of the current year since the taking over of the business of the Citizens' Insurance Company of this city, from February 1st last, and the reorganization of the Dominion branch with Mr. E. P. Heaton as manager and Mr. Geo. A. Roberts as assistant manager, the expectations entertained for the prosperity of the company have been more than realized. No fire office stands better with the public in Canada than the Guardian, and under its present management we may look for steady growth on safe lines of procedure.

BIG BUILDINGS, BIG DIVIDENDS AND BIG SALARIES.

The assessment organizations in their zealous and too often unscrupulous efforts to propagate their systems of shoddy life insurance have not hesitated from making many baseless charges against the standard companies. One of these charges, frequently heard upon the lips of their promoters, or in the pages of their "missionary literature," is that the bulk of the money paid in for premiums goes out again in the guise of big buildings for the companies, big dividends for their stockholders, and big salaries for their officers. Confining our attention for the present to the Canadian companies, let

us briefly expose the absurdity of the above statements.

First of all in regard to the big buildings: Can it be fairly alleged against any of our regular life companies that they have been guilty of a needless and unprofitable investment in bricks and mortar and architectural display? The Canada Life and the Confederation Life have each recently erected at considerable cost very commodious structures in the city of Toronto. But, besides being standing advertisements of the companies, and as such valuable, and a just cause of pride to the city, both of these excellent buildings give assurance of being reasonably remunerative as investments. The best of judges concede that the companies could hardly have invested their funds to better advantage than in these very buildings. Then, again, the Sun Life of this city not long ago completed and took possession of a solid and beautiful building in Montreal. It is confidently expected that within a very few years the entire building will be required by the company as a home for the transaction exclusively of its own business, and in that light is a good investment. In the meantime, such portions as are not so required are, we understand, yielding a very satisfactory rental. These are the only Canadian life companies, we believe, investing in buildings of special note, and the facts show that in no case is the allegation of an extravagant use of funds in this direction sustained.

The charge of big dividends to stockholders will be found on examination to be quite as groundless as the "big building" charge. Taking up the Government report for the year 1891, we find that of the twelve home life insurance companies, five paid dividends on their stock. Now, what proportion do those dividends bear to the actual income of the companies? The total gross income of these five companies was \$4,469,767.14; and the income left, after providing for all payments to policyholders and the general expenses of management, was \$2,113,838.82. Now, what was done with this large sum in excess of present needs? The absurd theory of the assessment advocate who say there is no need of hoarding up reserves, would naturally suppose it might have been divided among the fortunate stockholders, but, as a matter of fact, how much of it did go into their pockets? Precisely \$55,467.11, and not one cent more, the entire residue being added to the reserve funds of the different companies, there to remain as a guarantee that every policy will be paid in full at maturity, and yet no man be called upon for a cent more of premium than in his first year of assurance. Only a little over two and a half per cent. of the above excess of income went to stockholders for the employment of their capital. In the face of such a showing as this, common honesty would suggest to the advocates of assessmentism, that whatever other fault they may have to find with genuine insurance companies, the appropriating of big dividends by the stockholders should at least be excluded.

As to the payment of big salaries, this is not a matter that can very well be minutely gone into. This may, however, with perfect confidence be asserted, that there is not a Canadian life company to-day paying a salary

in any wise disproportioned to the ability, work and responsibility of the officer receiving it, or to the strength of the company, while there are certain dignitaries of the assessment associations, with many letters to their names, receiving in one way and another remuneration for their services that far exceeds the highest salary paid by the most liberal of our level premium life insurance companies. In fact, the less that is said by the assessment concerns upon this point the better for them. They should not forget the adage about the un wisdom of people who live in glass-houses indulging in stone-throwing.

For instance, it is well known that the "brainy" president of the Mutual Reserve Fund, the drum-major of assessmentism, receives two or three times as much from his association as any president of any life company in Canada. Perhaps he is worth all he receives, while our presidents receive a good deal less than they are worth. At all events, here is a case where the "big salary" boots on the other foot.

THE LIMITATION OF NEW LIFE BUSINESS.

One of the questions up for discussion at the convention at St. Paul, Minn., on June 15 and 16, of the supervising insurance officials of the several States, was "The Limitation of New Business by the Life Insurance Companies," introduced by a paper by Mr. D. Parks Fackler. After speaking of the immense growth of the business during the past few years, naming the danger from various sources of the continuation of a like growth, and pointing out the inadequacy of even sincere attempts at voluntary limitation by the great companies, Mr. Fackler proceeded to advocate a statutory remedy, as follows:-

What then can be done to guard against the impending danger? Many years' reflection have led to a belief that dangerous over-growth could be practically and effectively prevented by laws, providing that whenever and while the gross assets of any life insurance company shall amount to \$200,000,000, such company shall no longer be allowed to employ or pay any persons as agents, or solicitors, or brokers, or medical examiners, on commission or on salary, or otherwise, to obtain any new business; but that any citizen shall, however, be free to insure in such company, provided he shall write out his own application, transmit it directly to the company, and pay the fee for his own medical examination.

Such a law would leave the companies free to advertise for new business in any way they might wish, and would not materially restrict the liberty of the citizen. Where companies still desired to increase their business, they would be compelled to rely solely on arguments addressed to the reason, with publication of examples of their dividends and other payments to policyholders; and as relief from the enormous cost of getting new business would enable the companies thus limited to do far better for their policyholders than ever before, sufficient new business to replace discontinued would probably come in without cost.

As the fierce competition of the large companies has been the principal source of whatever of evil is to be found in the operation of this most beneficent institution of modern civilization, so, correspondingly, great benefits may be expected from the cessation of such strife, or when it is purged from its bad features. On the plan proposed, the largest companies could no

longer bid against each other to secure agents on terms injurious to the interests of the insured, but would be compelled instead to attract insurers by arguments addressed to their higher qualities.

Such legislation would not necessarily reduce the total yearly volume of new insurance written by all the companies, for the agents and solicitors of the largest companies, who would thus be gradually led to connect themselves with smaller companies, would easily do as much new business for the latter as for the former. The enforced severance of present connections after fair notice would work no unreasonable—if indeed any—pecuniary loss to good agents; for probably every self-respecting agent will assert that he is more important to this company than his company is to him—that pecuniarily he can do as well, or better, by going to some other company.

THE LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE.

The experience of this company for 1891 is well summarized on another page, and forms an interesting chapter in the history of fire underwriting for the year named. If we were without other information, the report of this old and exceptionally strong and well managed company, whose fire premium income amounts to an average of more than \$23,000 for each working day of the year, would tell us that the year 1891 must be set down as a very unprofitable one for all companies. How unprofitable it must have been to a good many companies is indicated by the fact that the Liverpool and London and Globe, confessedly usually representing fire insurance at its best, was able to report a surplus of net premium income over losses and expenses of only \$146,550, or about two per cent. of the premiums, in place of the usual twelve to thirteen per cent. realized. That a good many companies fared worse than this goes without saying. A single year of adverse experiences, however, counts for little with such a company as the L. L. and G., excepting to emphasize its Gibraltar strength. Notwithstanding the fire underwriting experience of the past year, the company has paid its usual large dividend, carried \$115,000 to the fire re-insurance fund, making it \$3,350,000, and has added to its total funds \$1,058,975. The net fire premiums for the year amounted to \$7,398,915, the fire losses to \$4,948,025, and the other current expenditures on fire branch account to \$2,304,340, leaving a balance as above stated of \$146,550, of which \$115,000 was added to fire re-insurance fund and \$31,550 carried to profit and loss account. The life branch makes an unusually favorable showing as to new business, the new issues amounting to \$3,108,050, and the largest by far for several years. The premium income was \$1,135,165, and the consideration for annuities \$665,000, while the total income from interest was \$849,540. The total funds, including cash capital, now amount to the large sum of \$41,363,245, as follows: Capital, \$1,228,200; general reserve fund, \$6,500,000; fire reinsurance fund, \$3,350,000; profit and loss, \$3,378,420; Globe perpetual annuity fund, \$5,514,000; and general life and annuity funds, \$21,392,625. Other funds, as shown in the general balance sheet, amount to \$3,077,320, bringing the total assets up to \$44,440,565, besides the unpaid capital and unlimited

liability of shareholders. Such a bulwark of strength is rarely found, and with the age and prestige and able management which belong to the Liverpool and London and Globe, assures a triumphant future, as it has heretofore a most successful past, during which the distribution for claims has amounted to the colossal sum of nearly \$140,000,000. In Canada the company has since it commenced business here been under the able management of Mr. G. F. C. Smith, who, like his company, is everywhere and favorably known and as widely respected for his personal worth and underwriting ability. Each year shows an increase over its predecessor in volume of business, and was measured last year by \$287,909 in net premiums and over \$44,000,000 at risk. The name of the company is a synonym of all that is strong, and the man who seeks protection for his property counts himself fortunate in the possession of one of its policies.

INSURANCE TAXATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

At a recent meeting of the New Brunswick Board of Fire Underwriters they unanimously adopted the following report of their special committee:—

The committee appointed to consider the recent act for the taxation of fire insurance and certain other companies have to submit the following report:—

1. The act provides for an annual tax of one per cent. on net premiums, with an additional sum of \$100 to be paid by each company whose principal office or organization is not within the province.

It is well known that a larger tax was at first suggested.

2. A question has been raised whether such an enactment imposing differential charges is within the powers of the local legislature. Without discussing the legal point, your committee are of opinion that it would be unwise at present to bring it before a court of law.

3. Your committee are of opinion that the added expense to the companies resulting from taxation must directly or indirectly be charged to the insured.

4. The peculiar circumstances of the province render it difficult to impose a specific fee or increase on the present tariff in all cases without exception. Along the United States border there is a sharp competition with agencies in the State of Maine. Throughout the province the board companies are exposed, not only to the competition of the two local offices, but to that of the Quebec Fire Insurance company, which, while availing itself elsewhere of the advantages of the tariffs, remains outside the Board in New Brunswick. Owing to this competition there may be a difficulty in securing unanimity of action among the board companies.

5. It is, however, open to the Board to consider the incidence of taxation in the ratings hereafter made: and the committee recommend that, in view of the increased charge, any further reductions in rate, as far as possible, should cease, and that in the revisions now being made and hereafter to be carried out the rates be advanced to an extent sufficient to protect even the smaller businesses. They further recommend that the re-ratings now in progress be proceeded with and extended from the county of Westmoreland to other counties without delay. In the course of the revisions the necessary increase can be adapted to the circumstances of each locality, and introduced with judgment at the points where the need may most exist, or in districts, such as the scene of the recent fire at Fairville, where it may be desirable to exert a pressure to induce the transfer of a preponderance of undesirable business outside the Board.

6. Your committee regret that the recent enactment should compel the companies to consider in any form whatever the question of an advance in rates. The losses by fire sustained in the past at St. John and elsewhere in the province have not and never can be repaid. The Board have, nevertheless, always been forward to make such equitable reductions in the charges for fire insurance as were possible. And it seems unfortunate that they should now be made the medium for the collection of taxes which must, in the natural course of business, be distributed among the insured, and fall upon the more prudent members of the community, who desire to avail themselves of the protection which fire insurance affords.

LIFE INSURANCE TERMINATED IN CANADA DURING 1891.

COMPANIES.	Amount Terminated by			
	Death.	Maturity & Expiry	Surrender.	Lapse.
<i>Canadian Co.'s.</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$
Canada Life (Canadian business)...	498,934	56,119	759,115	1,282,124
Citizens'.....	None.	None	15,500	None.
Confederation.....	171,178	85,251	298,439	893,461
Dominion Life.....	1,000	None.	4,500	145,000
Dominion Safety Fund.....	34,000	None.	None.	13,000
Federal.....	130,955	714,000	9,800	1,042,495
London Life, Genl do do, Industrial.....	12,771	4,333	43,215	305,362
Manufacturers' Life North Amer., Genl do do, Industl.....	9,839	None.	None.	617,064
Ontario Mutual.....	45,500	None.	123,615	1,054,749
Sun (Canadian business).....	51,709	42,920	94,774	810,371
Temperance and General.....	843	None.	510	679
Totals for 1891 ..	98,904	95,500	244,565	921,019
Totals for 1890 ..	115,172	21,990	279,228	1,103,278
<i>British Companies.</i>	19,000	None.	67,783	807,000
British Empire.....	1,190,805	1,014,113	1,941,017	7,145,607
Commercial Union, Edinburgh.....	1,128,149	877,498	1,705,682	1,267,750
Life Association of Scotland.....	136,687	50,500	136,790	253,077
Liverpool and London and Globe.....	32,280	5,280	5,211	12,200
London and Lancashire.....	18,076	None.	1,266	None.
London Assurance.....	57,052	4,137	5,602	977
North British.....	8,506	None.	5,237	5,000
Queen.....	80,977	49,100	144,587	566,555
Reliance.....	None.	None.	None.	None.
Royal.....	34,154	500	12,599	31,677
Scottish Amicable.....	1,258	None.	None.	1,080
Scottish Provident.....	3,500	None.	None.	None.
Standard.....	25,008	6,774	4,577	3,918
Star.....	5,973	None.	4,911	None.
Totals for 1891 ..	3,550	None.	None.	None.
Totals for 1890 ..	182,029	5,973	198,770	425,326
<i>American Co.'s.</i>	2,093	None.	14,780	21,900
Etna Life.....	591,143	122,330	534,430	1,321,706
Connecticut.....	676,180	28,715	450,682	1,502,230
Equitable.....	230,483	454,301	202,741	444,101
Germania.....	41,654	29,226	27,500
Metropolitan, Genl do Industrial.....	252,558	70,896	380,016	1,032,738
Mutual Life.....	5,000	None.	None.	107,000
National Life.....	1,000	None.	3,000	None.
New York.....	16,143	None.	None.	45,899
Northwestern.....	174,914	10,000	190,091	1,206,638
Phoenix Mutual.....	3,000	2,000	3,000	None.
Provident Savings.....	194,015	100,655	418,575	1,078,571
Travelers'.....	6,733	1,432	5,553	None.
Union Mutual.....	36,049	14,851	8,089	2,000
United States.....	3,000	None.	None.	424,000
Totals for 1891 ..	53,047	51,500	97,628	275,834
Totals for 1890 ..	48,530	143,662	40,898	146,500
	6,000	None.	800	567,200
Totals for 1891 ..	1,072,126	878,523	1,350,391	5,358,034
Totals for 1890 ..	760,788	819,653	1,081,367	5,692,884

"TOO MUCH LEGISLATION."

A letter was published under the above heading in a recent number of the Montreal Gazette, by Mr. Gerald E. Hart, general manager of the Phoenix Insurance Company of Hartford, referring to two judgments of the Superior Court by which Mr. Hart and his company have been condemned to pay \$200.00 and \$400.00 respectively, as penalties for non-compliance with the law requiring the registration of certain declarations by incorporated companies doing business in this Province. We think it opportune to print the full text of the Act in question for the benefit of those who may be ignorantly exposing themselves to similar penalties. The Act is contained in the second volume of the Revised Statutes of Quebec.

"DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY INCORPORATED COMPANIES."

4754. Every incorporated company, carrying on any labor, trade or business in this Province (except banks), shall cause to be delivered to the Prothonotary of the Superior Court in each district, or to the registrar of each registration division in which it carries or intends to carry on its operations or business, a declaration in writing to the effect hereinafter provided, made and signed by the President, when its chief office or principal place of business is in this Province, or by the principal manager or chief agent in the Province, when it has only branches or agencies therein.

(2) Such declaration shall state the name of the company, where and how it was incorporated, the date of its incorporation, and where its principal place of business within the Province is situated.

(3) Such declaration shall be in the form or to the effect of form A of this section, and shall be produced by the president or the principal manager or chief agent, as the case may be, of every such incorporated company, and filed within sixty days after commencing operations and business.

(4) When and so often as any change takes place in the name of the company or in its principal place of business in the Province, a declaration thereof shall in like-manner be made, within sixty days from such change.

4755. The Prothonotary and the Registrar shall enter such declaration in the books kept by them respectively for the registration of declarations of partnerships.

4756. The Prothonotary and the Registrar shall be entitled to a fee of one dollar for the entry of every declaration made under the authority of this section.

4757. A failure to make and file the declarations required by article 4754 renders each of the incorporated companies above mentioned liable to a fine of four hundred dollars, and the president, principal manager, or chief agent, as the case may be, to a fine of two hundred dollars.

4758. Should the declaration be made and filed after the expiration of the sixty days above mentioned, and before any suit for a contravention of this section has been instituted, then the company making and filing such declaration, its president, principal manager or chief agent, as the case may be, shall no longer be deemed to have been in default.

4759. The fines imposed by this section are recoverable before any Court having jurisdiction in civil cases to the amount of such fine by any person suing as well in his own name as in the name of Her Majesty, or by the Attorney-General in the name of Her Majesty.

4760. One-half of all fines recovered belongs to the party suing for the same and the other half to the Crown, and forms part of the consolidated revenue fund of the Province, unless the suit be brought on behalf of the Crown only, in which case the whole of the fine shall belong to the Crown for the uses aforesaid.

We may add that the Provincial Legislature did not in the first instance consider the registration of such declarations by insurance companies necessary as the original act 40 Vic. Q. cap. 15 includes insurance companies in the exception with banks; but by the amending act 45 Vic. Q. cap. 47, from which the present sections of the Revised Statutes are taken, this exception in favor of insurance companies was removed, leaving banks only free from the obligations thereby imposed.

A fire-proof paint has been invented by a carriage painter named Lanprey of Manchester, N.H., for which wonderful claims are made. Among numerous severe tests which are reported is this: "He took another piece of board, painted it, and subjected it to a four-hours' test over a gas-jet, then four hours more over an alcohol lamp flame, and then, to crown the test, subjected one spot on the board to the flame of a compound blow pipe for half an hour. The result, he affirms, had 20 more effect on the board than so much water!"

NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

We present our readers on another page the substance of the annual statement of the Northern for the year 1891. It will be observed that, in common with other companies, the results of the year in fire underwriting have been less satisfactory than usual, although not unfavorable as will be seen from the figures of the report. The net fire premiums received amounted to \$3,446,490, being an increase of \$89,170 over the previous year, while the losses called for \$2,122,740, or 61.6 per cent. of the premiums. Expenses of all kinds amounted to \$1,162,320, leaving a surplus of \$161,230 on underwriting account. After adding sufficient to maintain the reserve designed to meet liabilities under current policies at one-third the premiums for the year, the sum of \$131,505 was carried to profit and loss account—a result by no means without credit in such a year as 1891. In the two previous years the results indicated more nearly the average experience of the company, which has been one of profit. The fire loss ratio we notice, taking the Northern's experience from the beginning—a period of 56 years—has been about 59 per cent. of the premiums and when, as is well known, we add that the expense ratio has usually been a moderate one the uniformly good management which has prevailed in the fire department is apparent. The affairs of the life department move in an even and satisfactory path, and the experience of last year was no exception to the rule. The new assurances issued amounted to \$1,802,200, while the total premium income was \$1,124,385. The interest income from the life branch was \$454,125, making the total receipts \$1,578,510. There was also received for annuities \$58,240. The life funds have been increased from the transactions of the year by the sum of \$188,685 and have now reached the large total of \$12,592,150. Turning to the profit and loss account, we find that in addition to the balance transferred from fire account as above stated, there was added \$187,500 from the non-participating life account, and that interest profits on investments, and amount on hand at the beginning of the year together give a total of \$1,231,330. From this dividends and bonuses were taken amounting to \$450,000, the sum of \$250,000 transferred to the fire fund, and various taxes and small expenses paid, leaving a balance of \$456,425 to the credit of the account. The large resources of the company may be seen when we state that the paid-up capital is \$1,500,000, the fire reserve fund \$4,500,000, the portion of premiums set aside to meet fire policy liabilities \$1,148,830, the life and annuity funds \$12,592,150 small special funds \$87,180, and balance of profit and loss \$456,425, making the total funds \$20,284,595, while the total assets are \$21,253,285.

The transactions of the Northern in Canada cover a period of 25 years and have been of a character to win the confidence of the public. During that time more than \$2,000,000 have been distributed for losses and a large business built up. Under the direction of Mr. R. W. Tyre, the well known manager for the Dominion, the company has obtained a position in the front

rank such as only is reached by the best of management. This the company has had from Mr Tyre, who deservedly stands high in the estimation of all good underwriters, including the home office managers.

Financial and Statistical.

THE MAY BANK STATEMENT.

During the month of June each year the business tocsin is sounded from the highest and best informed positions in the Dominion, and the words of warning or encouragement, as the case may be, are becoming as anxiously looked for by business men and as carefully scanned as tariff and other legislative changes are in their line. We have had our usual annual reports for 1891-1892, which we are disposed to consider more favorable than otherwise. While caution is advised, success in many lines of business has been assured. Any disappointment that may exist is mainly with those who expected too much from the bountiful harvest supply of last year. The mention made by the general managers of the Merchants and Commerce Banks, in relation to the result of close attention by the managers and agents of outlying districts can be substantiated by those coming in business contact with the farmers. The farmers in all localities from which we can glean information are making extra improvements either in the way of clearing up waste land or erecting new buildings. The class who seem to complain most are the country merchants, who have not derived the advantages from the bountiful harvest which they anticipated. Overdue debts, they say, have not been paid in anything like the ratio they had anticipated, hence their cry of hard times. Loan companies, however, are well pleased with the result of their business, and say payments coming due were promptly met.

The showing of the banks should not be considered discouraging. Within the month their business has increased, largely; within the year, enormously—by those banks which have held their annual meetings. We find the following increase in capital viz:—subscribed capital, \$5,900; paid up capital, \$12,440; and reserve fund \$573,755. The following shows the increase made by the several banks:—

	Capital subscribed.	Capital paid up.	Reserve Fund.
Bank of Hamilton.....		\$1,350	\$31,190
Imperial Bank of Canada.....	\$300	2,520	51,260
Traders Bank of Canada.....	"	"	20,000
Bank of Ottawa.....	"	3,070	1,395
Bank of Toronto.....	"	"	100,000
Canadian Bank of Commerce..	"	"	100,000
Ontario Bank.....	"	"	35,000
Standard Bank.....	"	"	25,000
Banque Jacques-Cartier.....	"	"	2,500
Banque d'Hochelega.....	"	"	40,000
Merchants Bank of Canada.....	"	"	125,000
Quebec Bank.....	"	"	30,000
Commercial Bank of Manitoba.	\$5,500	5,500	

We find that La Banque Ville Marie has wiped out reserve funds of \$20,000, as has La Banque de St. Jean that of \$10,000.

Bank notes in circulation show a slight reduction, but are higher than on same date a year ago. People's deposits show a large increase, and current loans have increased in the same ratio. Amount due from banks

in the United States also shows a large increase, while amount due from banks in Great Britain shows a large reduction. Unless an over-supply of rain should continue, badly affecting the low lands we could have no stronger promise of a bountiful harvest which would, as the farmers say, place the country upon its feet.

The Department of Agriculture has issued a census bulletin, giving the number in 1891 of the various religious denominations in Canada and the increase since 1881. The largest increase has been made by the Methodists, Presbyterians, Church of England, and Roman Catholics in the order named. The total population credited to various religious denominations is 1,686,811, besides 6,411 Jews and 26,709 "pagans." Of the above total 2,696,346 are Protestants and 1,990,465 Catholics. The present percentage to total population of the principal denominations is as follows: Baptists, 6.33; Congregationalists, 0.58; Catholics, 41.46; Church of England, 13.41; Lutherans, 1.25; Methodists, 17.65; Presbyterians, 15.73; all others, 3.59. The total increase since 1881—Jews and pagans not considered—has been 475,528, of which 277,045 were Protestants and 198,483 Catholics.

The report at the annual meeting of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, held last week, shows that for the year ending May 31 the net profits were \$529,643. Bringing forward \$22,406 balance from last year the disposable surplus was \$552,049. From this \$100,000 was added to rest account, and \$420,000 appropriated for dividends to stockholders, being 7 per cent. The capital, paid up, \$6,000,000, and rest account, \$1,000,000, together with \$19,549 profit and loss balance, make \$7,019,549; the other liabilities being \$20,243,996, against total assets of \$27,263,545. The deposits exceeded \$17,000,000, an increase over the previous year of nearly \$2,000,000. The bank notes in circulation now amount to \$2,623,844. We notice that the item of current and time loans amounts to the large sum of \$17,595,077, showing a very large clientage.

The importance of the Suez Canal as a factor in British commerce is becoming more and more apparent. Especially in developing trade with Australasia is this route important, while communication between Europe and Eastern Africa by this means makes a favorable showing, with great possibilities for the future. The following, from *Money*, shows the growth of the business of the canal by decennial periods:

	1871.	1881.	1891.
Number of vessels.....	765	2,727	4,207
Net tonnage.....	761,467	4,136,779	8,698,777
Receipts (franes).....	7,595,385	47,193,882	\$1,540,836

From Tasmania alone a company is under contract to export by the canal about 240,000 bushels of fruit this year, and from Queensland it is estimated that 720,000 carcasses of mutton will be forwarded.

Director Leech of the United States Mint, in his report for 1891 on the precious metals, gives the following as the gold, silver and paper money of the four leading countries of the world:—

Country.	Gross Amounts.		
	Gold stock.	Silver stock.	Uncovered notes.
United Kingdom.....	\$550,000,000	\$100,000,000	\$30,530,000
France.....	900,000,000	700,000,000	\$1,401,000
Germany.....	500,000,000	205,000,000	107,000,000
United States.....	687,000,000	556,000,000	422,390,000

	Amount per capita.			
	Gold.	Silver.	Paper.	Total.
United Kingdom.. .. .	\$14.47	\$2.63	\$0.80	\$17.90
France.....	23.07	17.95	2.09	43.11
Germany....	10.10	4.14	2.16	16.40
United States.....	10.57	8.55	6.50	25.62

The world's product of gold during 1891 is given at \$125,299,700, an increase over the product of 1890 of \$5,824,400. The increase was mainly from South Africa, though Australia contributed to it over \$1,500,000. The increase in the world's silver product was nearly 10,000,000 of fine ounces.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE CHARTERED BANKS IN CANADA.
Comparison of Principal Items.

Assets.	31st May, 1892.	30th April, 1892.	31st May, 1891.	Increase and Decrease for month.	Increase and Decrease for year.
Specie and Dominion Notes.....	\$17,497,266	\$16,705,933	\$17,556,580	Inc. \$791,333	Dec. \$ 59,314
Notes of and cheques on other Banks.....	7,083,973	5,786,233	9,727,266	Inc. 1,297,740	Dec. 2,643,293
Due from American Banks and Branches.....	19,572,562	17,616,526	16,100,153	Inc. 1,956,036	Inc. 3,472,409
Due from British Banks and Branches.....	728,373	1,863,495	1,295,804	Dec. 1,135,122	Dec. 567,431
Canadian Municipal Securities and Brit., Prov. or For'gn. or Col. Pub. Securities other than Dominion f	6,867,457	6,692,872		Inc. 174,585	
Railway Securities.....	6,669,111	6,293,201		Inc. 375,910	
Loans on Stocks and Bonds on call.....	15,393,396	16,004,117		Dec. 610,721	
Current Loans to the Public.....	193,311,856	191,995,277		Inc. 1,316,579	
Overdue debts.....	2,126,476	2,489,155	2,608,531	Dec. 362,679	Dec. 482,055
Total Assets.....	286,543,931	283,069,561	267,201,213	Inc. 3,474,370	Inc. 19,342,720
Liabilities.					
Bank notes in circulation.....	31,583,218	31,496,369	30,917,214	Dec. 113,151	Inc. 466,004
Due Dominion Government.....	2,990,639	2,913,259	3,411,061	Inc. 77,380	Dec. 420,422
Due Provincial Governments.....	2,564,352	2,295,907	2,847,728	Inc. 268,445	Dec. 283,376
Deposits made by the public.....	157,439,129	155,178,094	141,201,874	Inc. 2,261,035	Inc. 16,237,255
Do. payable on demand or after notice between Bks..	3,037,074	2,484,558	3,076,591	Inc. 552,516	Dec. 39,517
Due to American Banks and Branches.....	169,841	163,989	108,847	Inc. 5,852	Inc. 60,994
Due to British Banks and Branches.....	4,398,444	4,513,406	3,123,446	Dec. 114,962	Inc. 274,998
Total Liabilities.....	203,016,245	199,471,250	185,591,618	Inc. 3,544,995	Inc. 17,424,627
Capital.					
Capital paid up.....	61,554,098	61,541,658	60,480,392	Inc. 12,440	Inc. 1,073,706
Reserve Fund.....	24,599,046	24,025,291	22,853,789	Inc. 573,755	Inc. 1,745,257
Directors' Liabilities.....	6,495,324	6,589,059	7,090,636	Dec. 93,735	Dec. 595,312

De. onts with Dominion Government for security of note circulation, \$846,927.

Note.—Loans on call or Current Loans for year cannot be accurately compared, owing to changes in the form of returns under the new banking Act.

The annual appropriation bill, reported by the committee having the matter of appropriations in charge, to the United States Senate calls for a total of \$146,737,360, or \$11,912,584 more than was included in the House bill. The above total exceeds the appropriation of last year by about \$11,500,000. There is an increase of nearly \$12,000,000 for army and navy pensions. The amount proposed for river and harbor improvements, including the waterways connecting the great lakes, is also much increased.

The import and export trade of the three following colonies of Australasia has been as follows for the year 1891:

	Imports.	Exports.
Victoria	\$108,558,040	\$80,033,715
Tasmania	10,259,820	7,204,090
Queensland	24,933,825	37,075,655
Totals.	\$143,751,685	\$124,313,460
Excess of imports over exports, \$19,438,225.		

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by Correspondents

LETTER FROM TORONTO.

Editor INSURANCE AND FINANCE CHRONICLE:—

Comparisons between different life companies are always looked upon with a certain degree of doubt, for the reason that it is only natural that each office should make comparisons that will show favorably to itself; and therefore in late years such comparisons are issued by agents much less frequently than they were in the old days, when the great fight was as to the annual dividends paid by different offices. I am led to make these remarks by looking over the chart of the Canadian business, lately issued by the Spectator Company of New York, and which I consider to be unfair to the older and more prosperous companies.

The other night, stopping over in a Western town, a number of agents were congregated together, and a discussion ensued as to the respective standing of different companies. One agent trotted out the Spectator chart, which he claimed was the best canvassing document that his company had, as it showed that the assets and liabilities of his company were a great many points in advance of the other institutions. I took the opportunity to explain that the basis upon which this percentage had been computed was unfair and incorrect, as capital had been included as surplus, whereas, deducting capital and finding the net surplus showed that the company that was apparently stronger had really no profits accumulated for its policyholders, and the other company had a surplus for that purpose of some hundreds of thousands of dollars. The next point of discussion was that of expenses to new business, and one of the smaller companies showed, from the Spectator chart, a ratio of 2.75, whereas the Sun Life's was 3.62, and that of the Confederation 5.43. The merest tyro should be aware that the comparison is unfair to the two last named companies, for the calculation as made charges the whole expenses to the new business, whereas, following the English plan, there should be a considerable deduction made for the collection of the old premiums, and taking care of large accumulated investments of the Sun and Confederation. Of course the same remarks apply to the Canada Life, North American and Ontario, when compared with the weaker companies. I think it only right and just to draw attention to the subject, as these charts are being extensively used by the weaker companies as against the older and more prosperous institutions, and this information will no doubt be servicable to the agents on the field. It is especially unfair to that excellent mutual institution, the Ontario of Waterloo, which has no capital stock whatever, and is therefore placed at a great disadvantage in the comparison of the assets to liabilities, the other companies being credited with their capital.

The rates being secured by certain accident companies, this year, I should think, will about pay expenses and perhaps losses, but it is doubtful if there will be anything left to provide reserve; and as for a dividend for the unfortunate stockholders, that appears out of the question. Our City Council has been lately considering a very wise movement, *i.e.*, to insure all the corporation workmen against accident; and I believe that an arrangement has been made with the Citizens', Manufacturers', and London Guarantee to write to the extent of \$1,000 on each man, and that for a moderate premium; if this be carried out it will relieve the corporation for a small annual payment from further expense and responsibility where the corporation employees meet with trivial accidents, as is constantly the case, and the city is generally mulcted in damages when action is brought against them.

There has been considerable fuss through the papers about the suit of McCord *vs.* Jones. The facts are that Mr. Alf. Jones, who represents the Western Fire on the Pacific Coast, and was years ago in the employ of Mr. McCord, on reaching Toronto the other day at once telephoned to Mr. McCord's house to enquire about Mr. McCord's health. The lines happened to be crossed, and instead of receiving the reply that Mr. McCord was better and daily improving in health, he took the reply to say that Mr. McCord was dead. He naturally repeated this to his brother and others, and when it reached Mr. McCord's ears the same evening he was very wrathful, and his solicitors the next day threatened suit, claiming damages for a heavy amount. Mr. Jones was exceedingly sorry for the mistake that occurred, and at once went to Mr. McCord's house and explained the matter, and proper announcement having been made through the press, the matter was thereupon allowed to drop—in fact, no writ was issued. The statement made in one journal that Mr. Jones had cabled to England for the appointment is entirely incorrect.

Competition in the fire business was never so keen as at the present time. This probably arises from the changes referred to in my last letter. One agent here has made himself conspicuous by writing certain letters referring to a highly respectable firm in this city; but from what I can learn, he was entirely under a misapprehension on the subject which he was writing, and the ultimate result had about as much effect as water has on a duck's back. Mr. Pringle, formerly of the London and Lancashire, has decided to take a city agency for the British America. Governor Morrison, who has lately returned from the West, did not make an appointment for inspector of the Western territory at Chicago. He found it exceedingly difficult to find a good man available, although there are any number of the other kind looking about for a soft berth. Mr. Burt, secretary of the Connecticut Fire, Hartford, has received three months leave of absence, and has gone on a visit to England. This hard-working gentleman well deserves a few months holiday, and in common with others I hope he will have a pleasant trip, a safe return, and be benefited by the change.

At the annual meeting of the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association it was decided to allow Secretary McLean a few months holiday, and the hope was cordially expressed that he would be so benefited as to return with greatly recuperated strength. The matter of discussion by the Board was the issuing of an unconditional policy by Mr. Moffat of the Phoenix, on the Trinity College here, thereby cutting out the other companies. The Western declined to vary the statutory conditions, and their policy was returned, hence the charge laid against Mr. Moffat. He has been requested to withdraw his policy, as also have the companies who issued similar policies on the University and other Government buildings. It seems ridiculous that the Ontario Government should make certain statutory conditions, to be inserted in policies issued in this Province, and then demand that the companies should issue unconditional policies on its own buildings. The Government is certainly to be censured for its action; and it is to be hoped the Board will be sustained by all the companies interested.

It seems we have not heard the last of the big fire at the Bowmanville Furniture Co., that occurred several months ago. Mr. Lye, the expert who was employed to investigate and report upon the matter, has, through his solicitors, notified the insured that they have no valid claim against the companies, and there the matter rests for the present.

The registration of the companies, as required by the Insurance Corporations Act of 1892 in Ontario, is causing a great deal of annoyance, and so far is pronounced a perfect nuisance. The requirements as provided by the forms are ambiguous, as is evidenced by nearly all the companies making a mess of the returns. So far in nearly every instance they have been returned for correction.

Just now there is a circular warfare on between the Mutual Reserve Fund of New York and the Mutual Life of the same city. It appears that the latter is somewhat annoyed to find so many people insured in the assessment concern who imagine they are holders of policies in the old Mutual Life, and when they took the means to explain this misapprehension, the Mutual Reserve responded with a circular that is full of stuff that has done duty in years gone by, for the purpose of attacking the officials of the Mutual Life. It is needless to say that the latter gets back at the Mutual Reserve, and shows what an expensive concern that company is becoming for its policy-holders.

P. B. P.

TORONTO, June 23rd, 1892.

THE ESTIMATE EVIL.

Editor INSURANCE AND FINANCE CHRONICLE:—

It appears to me I noticed some time ago an article in your valuable journal reflecting on the honesty of some life companies which were using tontine estimates, long since found to be utterly unreliable and impossible of fulfillment. In fact, I believe that the company which originally adopted that scale of estimate (a leading American one) has discarded it long since, experience showing it to be much too high.

I do not believe any life company could have carried out the first estimates prepared for the tontine and semi-tontine plan of insurance. In the light of experience, it would not appear to redound to the credit of any of the companies to continue to use impracticable figures, besides, they must know they are playing upon the ignorance of people in such matters and, I may add, at the expense of honest companies, which *only* hold out such inducements as they feel confident can be realized.

A certain Canadian company was the second in this country, I think, to adopt tontine, and I believe its business is carried on almost entirely on that plan. I am confident, therefore, that its management must be aware that some if not all of its tontine estimates are excessive, especially when the experience gained from most of the leading American companies confirms this fact. I understand that the company I have reference to adopted the same basis of estimate as the American company above referred to. Yet this same company has always possessed a greater profit-paying power than the Canadian company I allude to. I will introduce here an example of an estimate made by this company, which I think it would be safe to promise they will never be able to realize:

Amount of risk, \$1,000. Plan offered, 20 year semi-tontine endowment. To receive at expiration of above term \$1,800.

I think you will agree with me that these figures cannot be reached by the very best company, and certainly not by the one I have reference to. I am impressed with the belief that this method of securing business is not a *square deal*, and should be exposed.

There is a moral contained in this mode of canvas which I will mention. The term "gullibility" describes a well-known phase of human weakness. It may therefore easily be seen that an agent or a company practising on this weakness may develop a business which honest work could never obtain. The policy seems to me to make extraordinary offers or bids entirely apart from truth or fact. The public do not understand how these figures are arrived at, but the attractive total catches them; whether right or wrong appears to be a secondary consideration.

FAIR PLAY.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

Editor INSURANCE AND FINANCE CHRONICLE:—

The assessment principle has received another hard blow from a man well qualified in every respect to give it. Mr. Geo. King lectured last month before the Bristol Insurance Institute, and exposed in his usual clear and able style the fallacies of Assessmentism. He showed very successfully the glaring errors of the system, and how utterly wrong (amongst other things) the advocates of that system were, in stating that the average duration of policies was only 8 or 9 years. It was true, he said, that the average duration of policies in twenty English companies was nine and three-quarter years when the returns were made up; but at the time that experience was taken out, there were no fewer than 88,329 policies in existence out of 160,426 that had been issued, so that more than half the business was still on the books of the various companies when the balance was struck. But in striking the average at 9¼ years, it is assumed that all existing policies were instantly cancelled; and hence the average was stated at an absurdly low figure. But the average duration of a policy in Great Britain, he said, was twenty and a half years. This estimate includes term and contingent assurances, endowment policies, and other classes of a more or less ephemeral nature. In connection with this subject I learn that the Pioneer Life office has decided—much to the consternation of many of its best agents—to adopt the assessment system of payments.

ACCIDENT ASSURANCE,

as represented by the Railway Passengers Company, seems to progress steadily. Although the temporary contracts afforded by railway tickets have decreased in number, there is an increase in the more permanent contracts; but the company reports a loss ratio higher than has been hitherto experienced. Otherwise the report for 1891 is satisfactory. A great deal of close and, I regret to add, unfair competition prevails among the accident companies, and it is highly creditable to the executive of the above company, that they are able to show that only 10 per cent. of waste occurs in connection with the business, covering non-accidental deaths, removals and "transfers," so called, through the efforts of rival companies.

NON-AGENCY OFFICES,

like the Metropolitan, have been slow to move with the times. A conservative, and even a defiant spirit has too often been exhibited in respect of improvements in practice and regulations. But the Metropolitan having departed from its old premises, and being now located in a fine, handsome building in Moorgate Street, has, it seems, determined to make this departure the occasion for a radical change in its methods and practice. The last report tells the public, that policies are to be issued free from all restrictions as to residence, travel, and occupation; fines for non-payment of premium are to be abolished, and lapsed policies are to be reinstated without medical examination within twelve months, subject to payment of the overdue premium with interest; and loans are to be granted at 4 per cent. interest. The action of the Metropolitan is significant of the change that is gradually but certainly working in the insurance world, and in the most conservative of its institutions.

STATE AIDED PENSIONS

were recently the subject of discussion at the annual gathering of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, one of the largest friendly societies in the kingdom. Mr. Chamberlain's scheme having so far progressed as to be formally drafted for consideration by Parliament, the Grand Master of the Oddfellows made a pronouncement on the subject, from which it appears that the Society is not only opposed to the scheme itself, but to the principles on which it is founded. At the same time the Oddfellows recognize the fact that something must be done to provide for old age, and at the meeting of a sub-committee, it

was definitely agreed that it should be recommended to the delegates, to fix a superannuation benefit in lieu of sick pay for members when they reached 65 years of age. There seems to be a strong objection on the part of the friendly societies generally, to state interference, and if they can agree to deal with the superannuation question on some satisfactory basis, the discussions that have been going on for the last two or three years will not have been fruitless.

THE RATE OF INTEREST

earned by life insurance companies is becoming a subject of more and more anxiety to their managers, especially when the funds to be invested are very large. As an instance of successful management in regard to this important question, I may point to the report of the Scottish Widows Fund. Quoting from the figures published by the society, we have the following satisfactory record:

Years	Rate of interest	£	s	d	%
1881-1887		4	2		1%
" 1888-1891	"	4	4		6%
" 1891	"	4	5		6%

This rate, earned upon a fund of £11,000,000 and upwards, is very creditable to the managers; and is to a great extent due to their spirited policy in sending out a representative to the Australasian colonies, who has been able to invest more than £2,000,000 upon securities, both safe and remunerative. Other companies will doubtless consider the propriety of adopting an equally bold course of action.

THE BUSINESS OF A LIFE OFFICE.

Mr. Newbatt, the president of the Institute of Actuaries, in a lecture delivered before the Yorkshire Insurance Institute, delivered the dictum that "the business of a life insurance office is life insurance," and then proceeded to denounce the system of short-term endowments, as not being life assurance but investment. Mr. Sprague has criticized Mr. Newbatt's dictum, and denunciation. He quite agrees with the statement as to the main business of a life office, but he qualifies it by saying that he considers investment also a part of the business of such an office, and a very important part too. Therefore, such being the case, he sees no objection to the practice of granting short term endowments; for "if in the progress of events it is found mutually advantageous to the company and the assured, that the company should undertake to invest money for the assured to a limited extent either directly or indirectly through an endowment assurance," there is no reason why it should not be done. Mr. Newbatt makes another objection to endowment assurance, on the ground that the assured expect large bonuses upon the premiums paid in respect of the policies. To this objection Mr. Sprague replies that the fault must then lie in the system of giving the bonuses; for if the bonus is allotted as a percentage on the sum assured, then the endowment policies do not obtain more than their fair share of the surplus. Mr. Sprague also mentions a fact that is pretty generally admitted, viz., that the vitality of persons effecting endowment assurances is decidedly above the average of assured lives; and that therefore this class of business is a desirable one for the offices to cultivate.

LONDON, June 16th, 1892.

VIGILANS.

ABOUT THAT PENALTY.

Editor INSURANCE AND FINANCE CHRONICLE:—

With reference to your remarks in your issue of the 15th instant "The Insurance Corporations Act, 1892," I presume you have not failed to notice the provisions of Sec. 27 (1) (2) and (3), which are as follows:—

(1) After 31st December, 1892, no person or persons, or body corporate or unincorporated *other than a corporation standing registered under this Act* * * * * * shall undertake or effect, or offer to undertake or effect, *any contract of insurance.*

(2) If any promoter, * * * manager, director, * * * or person *whosoever* * * * undertakes or effects, or agrees or offers to undertake or effect, *any contract of insurance, he shall be guilty*

*of an offence, and upon summary conviction thereof before any police magistrate or justice of the peace * * * shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$200 and costs * * * and in default of payment the offender shall be imprisoned with or without hard labor for a term not exceeding three months and not less than one month; and on a second or any subsequent conviction he shall be imprisoned with hard labor for a term not exceeding twelve months and not less than three months.*

(3) *Anyone may be a prosecutor or complainant under this Act.*

During the ensuing holiday season the managers may perhaps have the opportunity to contemplate the above provisions along with other picnic paraphernalia.

But possibly they may find more than comfort in the fact that as the Registry officer has completely ignored their existence and powers, and would only deal with the principal officials in England, the above penalties will fall on the home office.

Manager.

MONTREAL, June 24, 1892.

[The entire sections referred to above are printed in the extracts from the Act in our last issue on page 282.—(Ed. Ins. & FIN. CHRONICLE).]

Notes and Items.

The investigator Life Insurance Chart for 1892 is at hand, and is up to its usual standard of excellence, which is a high one.

The name of that old company, the Church of England Assurance Institution, has been changed to the "England Assurance Institution."

We are indebted to Secretary Pierson for a full report of the annual meeting of the Actuarial Society of America, held in April last in New York.

This is the centennial year of the Insurance Co., of North America of Philadelphia, and in November next it will appropriately celebrate its hundredth anniversary.

We are indebted to Insurance Commissioners Luper of Pennsylvania and Duncan of Kentucky for bound volumes of the Life Reports of their respective States for 1891.

A greater amount of indignation has probably been expressed regarding that new Ontario Insurance Act than at any legislative enactment ever before consummated in Canada.

A committee of insurance men has carefully inspected the arrangements for fire protection on the World's Fair Exposition grounds at Chicago and pronounce them ample and satisfactory.

The insurance companies, in the ten years from 1880 to 1890, paid for losses by fire and accident on land and water, in the United States, the large sum of \$647,726,000, according to the census bulletin.

The electrical lights for the World's Fair will in part consist of 92,622 incandescent lamps of 16-candle power each, at a cost of \$339,000. Besides these 500 arc lights of 2,000-candle power will be used.

In accordance with the notice given the authorities of Switzerland at the close of 1890, no new business has been done in that country since by the Equitable and the New York Life. At the date named the former had \$1,985,906 of insurance in force, and the latter \$1,566,292. The original deposits required by the government will probably remain until the existing business runs off.

The Knights of Honor, counted as one of the flourishing assessment life societies, and though reporting an increased membership each year, shows a cost rate in 1891 of \$15.70 per \$1,000, against \$12.20 in 1886.

We learn from an exchange that a merchant of Nicola, B.C., named E. A. Howse, has been sentenced to one year in jail for complicity in a fraud upon one of the insurance companies, represented by Robert Ward & Co., of Victoria.

French statistics on insanity are said to show that the proportion of mental diseases is one in each number of the following classes:—artists, 104; jurists, 119; authors, 280; physicians, 253; engineers, 727; rentiers, 3,609; bankers, 5,487; farmers, 18,819.

In the absorption of the Tasmanian Fire insurance company, the Alliance of London has, it is said, secured a good business and valuable connections in Tasmania. The paid-up capital of the Tasmanian on December 31, 1891, was \$62,300 and the reserve fund a little over \$31,000.

An arrangement has been made between the Commercial Union, the Guardian of London, and the Greenwich of New York to establish a bureau for the adjustment of their losses in the Metropolitan District, New York, for one year from July 1. Mr. John Keegan is to be in charge of the bureau.

Insurance can never be an exact science, because the shades of distinction created by moral and physical differences are so numerous and imponderable. Long experience and common sense judgment in each individual case must, after all, be the underwriter's guide. —Thos. S. Chard.

The executive committee of the National Board of Fire Underwriters has adopted a resolution instructing the secretary to address a letter to all fire insurance companies doing an agency business asking them whether they would attend a convention "to consider the general situation," to be held in New York city this fall.

In the interesting case of Crotty vs. the Mutual Life, carried to the United States Supreme Court, it has been decided that where a creditor is the beneficiary under a life policy on the life of a debtor the interest of the former ceases upon the payment of the debt, the proceeds of the policy going to the representatives of the insured.

The Mercantile Fire of Waterloo has made the required deposit with the Dominion Government and has been duly licensed to transact business accordingly. The company, however, does not contemplate any considerable extension of its field at present, though hereafter it will have a place, as it deserves to, in the Government returns.

The City Mutual Fire insurance company of London, Ont., which commenced business in June 1886, has, after the usual checkered career of mutuals, succumbed to the inevitable. A winding-up order was recently made by the court, and the liabilities of some \$20,000 will depend for payment upon the collection of unpaid premiums.

Another assessment life association, called the Michigan Mutual Benefit Life of Hillsdale, organized in 1879, discontinued. Such of its members as can pass a medical examination are to go into the the Odd Fellows Mutual of Galesburg, Ill., and the other fellows, who were under the delusion that they had made provision for their families, are left without remedy.

The membership of the assessment society of Rochester, N.Y., called the Mutual Relief Society, with a membership but little more than one-third as large as it had five years ago, retires and turns over the leavings to the National Life Association of Hartford.

The three per cent. tax on premiums by the State of Michigan has cost the fire insurance companies doing business in that State, according to the *Investigator*, \$118,569 for the year ending June 30, 1892. For the same period the life companies paid \$63,045 as a two per cent. premium tax.

We have received the second number of a new Montreal weekly called *The Antidote*, projected by Mr. Louis H. Boulton, well-known to many of our readers, and issued by the *Journal of Commerce*. The contents are of a varied character, literary, musical and social topics, interspersed with humorous illustrated sketches, finding a place in the make-up.

From the report of the annual meeting of the Institute of Actuaries, held in London on the 11th ult., we learn that the additions during the past year to the membership were 25, against 19 for the previous year. The total membership now, in the forty-fourth year of its existence, is 645. The Council awarded the Samuel Brown prizes to Mr. Thomas Kyd and Arthur W. Tarn. The syllabus of the future examinations is to be revised and improved in some essential features.

In speaking of the experience of the Scottish Union and National in the United States for 1891, the chairman at the annual meeting in Edinburgh, after stating that a fair profit had been made by the United States branch as usual, said:—"For this result the directors feel they are indebted to the care and prudence shown by Mr. Bennett, their respected manager at Hartford, who has in trying and disastrous times carefully protected their interest as far as it was possible to do so."

How beautifully progressive the "Progressive Benefit Order" of Boston has been is revealed in the receiver's report—for, like some twenty-five more of the assessment endowment swindles, it has a receiver kindly furnished by the court. The official finds about \$57,900 of assets, though since its organization in May, 1890, the concern has received \$1,622,220. The "supreme" officers found out where the "benefit" came in to the tune of \$52,400 for the supreme organizer, and sums for the lesser lights ranging from \$1,000 to over \$7,000.

PERSONAL MENTION.

MR. HUGH W. WONHAM has been appointed a Montreal city agent of the Queen Insurance Company.

MR. JOHN M. DOVE, general manager of the Liverpool and London and Globe, was in Montreal on the 18th ult. in the course of his visit to the United States and Canada.

F. X. GOSSELIN & Co., of Quebec, general insurance agents, have been appointed agents for the Agricultural of Watertown. The firm is composed of F. X. Gosselin and O. Meunier.

MR. THOMAS R. BURCH, for the eighteen years past Western and Southern general agent at Chicago of the Phenix insurance company of Brooklyn, died from paralysis on the 15th ult., aged 47 years.

MR. C. N. JONES, for some three and a-half years past assistant actuary of the Northwestern Mutual Life of Milwaukee, has been appointed to and accepted the position of associate actuary of the New York Life.

Mr. F. J. G. KNOWLTON, of St. John, N.B., spent a few days in Montreal last week. Mr. Knowlton's firm represents the British America and Phoenix of Hartford.

THE RENOWNED HARPER, president of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life, has just sailed for Europe on his annual pilgrimage, and will spread the wings of the American eagle for the glorification of assessmentism.

Mr. WILLIAM WOOD, United States manager of the United Fire, and Mr. William Bell, of Manchester, foreign superintendent of the Palatine have been in Chicago this week looking after the interests of these companies.

Mr. W. CAMPBELL MACDONALD, actuary of the Confederation Life of Toronto, has sailed for England as second in command of the Bisley Team. Major Macdonald is not only a good actuary, but a good marksman.

UNITED STATES MANAGER BEAVAN, of the London and Lancashire Fire, was in Montreal last week and favored the CHRONICLE with a pleasant call. Mr. Beavan is one of the most wide-awake managers in the United States.

Mr. GEORGE L. CHASE, president of the Hartford Fire insurance company, completed on June 15th, last, just twenty-five years of continuous service as president and outranks in continuous service the presidents of all other American companies.

Mr. W. A. SIMS of Toronto, who retires, on account of private business, from the Dominion management of the London and Lancashire Fire, is the recipient of a handsome gold epergne, suitably inscribed, from the directors of the company in Liverpool, designed as a mark of their esteem.

Mr. EUGENE HARBECK, recently secretary of the Michigan Fire and Marine of Detroit, is to succeed the late Thos. R. Burch as general Western and Southern agent at Chicago of the Phenix of Brooklyn. Mr. F. H. Whitney, Michigan special agent of the Michigan F. & M. succeeds Mr. Harbeck as secretary.

MUNICIPAL DEBENTURES.

GOVERNMENT AND RAILWAY BONDS.

INVESTMENT SECURITIES.

BOUGHT AND SOLD

Insurance Companies requiring Securities suitable for deposit with Dominion Government or other purposes can have their wants supplied by applying to

R. WILSON SMITH,

British Empire Building, MONTREAL

Debentures and other desirable Securities purchased.

INSURANCE **ÆTNA** COMPANY.

CANADIAN AGENCY ESTABLISHED 1821.

HARTFORD, CONN.

CASH ASSETS, \$10,659,139.03.

Fire and Inland Marine Insurance.

J. GOODNOW, President; W. B. CLARK, Vice-Pres.; A. C. BAYNE, Sec. JAS. F. DUPREY, WM. H. KING, Assistant Secretaries.

WOOD & EVANS, General Agents, MONTREAL,

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE,

FOUNDED A.D. 1710.

HEAD OFFICE:

Threadneedle Street. - - London, Eng

Transacts Fire business only, and is the oldest purely fire office in the world. Surplus over capital and all liabilities exceeds \$7,000,000.

CANADIAN BRANCH:

15 Wellington Street East, - Toronto, Ont.

H. M. BLACKBURN, Manager.

This Company commenced business in Canada by depositing \$300,000 with the Dominion Government for security of Canadian Policy-holders.

Scottish Union  **National**

Insurance Company of Edinburgh, Scotland.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

Capital, - - - - -	\$30,000,000
Total Assets, - - - - -	40,500,007
Deposited with Dominion Government, - - - - -	125,000
Assets in United States, - - - - -	1,777,927
Invested Assets in Canada, - - - - -	1,415,468
Total Invested Assets in United States and Canada, - - - - -	3,193,395

M. BENNETT, Manager North American Department.

J. H. BREWSTER, Asst. Manager, HARTFORD, Conn.

WALTER KAVANAGH, - Resident Agent.

117 St. Francois Xavier Street, MONTREAL.

THE

GERMANIA LIFE

Insurance Company of New York.

Established 1860. Assets \$17,000,000.00

AN ACTUAL RESULT:

Policy of \$5,000.....	to Pay't Life Ins.
	13 years- Dividend Recd.
Age 27.....	Annual premium \$ 226.00
Total premiums paid.....	2,200.00
Cash Settlement at end of Tontine Period :-	
Guaranteed Reserve.....	\$1,905.00
Surplus actually earned.....	1,404.90
	3,309.90

This represents a return of all premiums paid, with a profit of..... \$1,049.94

Free choice also given of such options as are offered by other first class companies.

JEFFERS & RÖNNE, Managers.

46 King Street West, Toronto.

GOOD AGENTS WANTED—Liberal Terms

DEBENTURES.

Government, Municipal and Railway.

HANSON BROS.,

TEMPLE BUILDING, MONTREAL.

Messrs. HANSON BROS. always have on hand large blocks of

GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPAL DEBENTURES,

available for deposit by Insurance Companies with the Dominion Government at Ottawa, or for other trusts, and are always ready to purchase first class INVESTMENT SECURITIES of every description.

PAID-UP CAPITAL, £1,000,000 Stg.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED, \$10,000,000.

INVESTED FUNDS, OVER 21,700,000.

A NEW DEPARTURE IN AMERICA.

The Life Insurance Clearing Co.

OF ST. PAUL, MINN.

Invites special attention to its perfected system for insuring

Under-Average Lives.

The only scientific method yet devised for furnishing life insurance to those most needing it.

The plan has been developed from the actual experience of insuring under-average lives in English and Australian companies, and marks the greatest advance yet made in the science of life insurance in America. For further particulars, address

RUSSELL R. DORR, President.

St. Paul, Minn.

GENERAL MANAGER FOR CANADA:

E. P. HEATON,

HEAD OFFICE: GUARDIAN BUILDING, MONTREAL.

ESTABLISHED 1821.

FIRE RISKS ACCEPTED.

The London Assurance Corporation

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER A.D. 1720.

Total Funds in hand over - - - \$18,000,000

— FIRE TRIED AND TIME TESTED —

HEAD OFFICE FOR CANADA,

1762 Notre Dame Street,

MONTREAL

E. A. LILLY, Manager.

MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

RICHARD A. McCURDY,
President.

OF NEW YORK

ISSUES
Every Desirable
FORM OF POLICY.

The MUTUAL of New York is the largest LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY in the World, with the best Record.

ASSETS, - - - - \$159,507,139.
SURPLUS, at four per cent., 12,030,967.

FAYETTE BROWN,
General Manager,
MONTREAL.

J. L. STEARNS,
General Manager,
HALIFAX, N.S.

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 British Empire Building, } - - MONTREAL
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 Surplus Lines placed with First Class Foreign Companies.
 REFERENCES: E. P. Greenshields, Esq.
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BELLEAU & CLEMENT,
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MONTREAL.
 Correspondence invited.

NORTHERN



ASSURANCE COMPANY,
OF LONDON.

INCOME AND FUNDS, 1890.
 Capital and Accumulated Funds \$35,235.00
 Annual Revenue from Fire and Life Business, and Interest
 on Invested Funds..... 5,300.00
 Deposited with Dominion Government for the security of
 Canadian Policy-holders..... 200.00

CANADIAN BRANCH OFFICE,
 1724 Notre Dame Street, - - MONTREAL
ROBERT W. TYRE, Manager.
 G. E. MOBERLY, Inspector.

PHENIX
INSURANCE COMPANY
 (Of Hartford, Conn.)
 ESTABLISHED IN 1854.



Cash Capital, \$2,000,000.00
 RESERVE FUND:
 Unadjusted Losses, \$ 391,212.30
 Re-Insurance Fund, 1,950,693.69
 Net Surplus, \$2,341,958.58
 1,334,462.52

D. W. C. SKILTON, President.
 J. H. MITCHELL, Vice-Pres.
 CHAS. E. GALACAR, 2nd Vice-Pres.
 GEO. H. BURDICK, Secretary.
CANADA BRANCH.
 FULL DEPOSIT WITH THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT.

Head Office, - - - Montreal.
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GERALD E. HART,
 General Manager and Chief Agent.
 Applications for Agencies Solicited.

FIRE. LIFE. MARINE.
COMMERCIAL UNION

Assurance Company Ltd. of London, Eng.

Capital and Assets, - - - - - \$27,000,000
 Life Fund, (in special trust for Life Policy Holders) 6,444,000
 Total Net Annual Income, - - - - - 7,000,000
 Deposited with Dominion Government, - 374,248

HEAD OFFICE CANADIAN BRANCH:
 1731 Notre Dame Street, - MONTREAL.

EVANS & McCREGOR, Managers.

Applications for Agencies solicited in unrepresented districts.

PHENIX
 FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,
 OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

ESTABLISHED 1782.

Agency Established in Canada in 1804.

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 GENERAL AGENTS FOR DOMINION.

HEAD AGENCY OFFICE,
 35 St. Francois Xavier Street, MONTREAL.

— THE —
EQUITABLE
 LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 1, 1892.

ASSETS ,.....	\$136,198,518.38
Liabilities , including the Reserve on all existing Policies (4 per cent. Standard) and Special Reserve (toward the establishment of a 3½ per cent. valuation) of \$1,500,000.....	109,905,537.82
Total Undivided Surplus	\$26,292,980.56
Income	\$39,054,943.85
New Assurance written in 1891.	233,118,331.00
Outstanding Assurance	804,894,557.00

The Free Tontine policy (the Society's latest form) is UNRESTRICTED as to residence, travel and occupation after one year; INCONTES-TABLE after two years, and NON-FORFEITABLE after three years.

Claims are paid immediately upon the receipt of satisfactory proofs of death.

HENRY B. HYDE, President.

JAMES W. ALEXANDER, Vice-President.

THE WATERLOO
 MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

ESTABLISHED IN 1863.

Head Office, . . . WATERLOO, ONT.

TOTAL ASSETS \$242,737.18
POLICIES IN FORCE 15,521

Intending Insurers of all classes of insurable property have the option of insuring at STOCK RATES or on the Mutual System,

CHARLES HENDRY, President.
JOHN KILLER, Inspector.
C. M. TAYLOR, Secretary.
GEORGE RANDALL, Vice-President

THE MERCANTILE

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

INCORPORATED 1875

Head Office, . . . WATERLOO, ONT.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL \$200,000.00
GOVERNMENT DEPOSIT 20,257.00

The Business for the past sixteen years has been :
PREMIUMS received \$1,075,861.22
LOSSES paid 575,339.57

LOSSES PROMPTLY ADJUSTED AND PAID.

I. E. BOWMAN, President. JAMES LOCKIE, Secretary

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC BRANCH. HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO

H. M. BLACKBURN, General Agent.

WM. ROWLAND, Inspector.

CITY OF LONDON
 FIRE INSURANCE CO. OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

Chairman : **SIR HENRY E KNIGHT, Alderman, late Lord Mayor.**

General Manager : **L. C. PHILLIPS, Esq.**

CAPITAL, - £1,900,000 STG.

All Losses adjusted and paid in the various Branches without reference to England.

NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH,
 Head Office, Halifax,
ALF. SHORTT, General Agent.

NEW BRUNSWICK BRANCH,
 Head Office, St. John,
H. CHUBB & CO., General Agents.

MANITOBA BRANCH,
 Head Office, Winnipeg,
G. W. GIRDLESTONE, General Agent.

FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

New-York Life Insurance Company

Office: 346 & 348 Broadway, New York.

JANUARY 1, 1892.

ASSETS.

Real Estate.....	\$12,428,217.15
Stocks and Bonds.....	77,617,663.40
Bonds and Mortgages.....	21,405,233.56
Loans secured by collaterals.....	4,551,900.00
Premium Loans.....	521,700.28
Cash in Office and in Banks and Trust Companies.....	6,070,942.27
Interest and Rents due and accrued.....	565,037.81
Net amount of uncollected and deferred premiums.....	2,756,466.31
Total Assets.....	\$125,947,280.81

LIABILITIES.

Reserve, or Value of outstanding Policies.....	109,428,156.00
Other Liabilities.....	1,378,111.50
Total Liabilities.....	\$110,806,267.50
Surplus, being the same amount which will be shown to be the Company's Surplus by the Annual Report of the New York State Insurance Department as of December 31, 1891.....	\$15,141,023.31

INCOME.

Total Premium Income.....	26,226,276.40
Interest, Rents, etc.....	5,597,919.58
Total Income.....	\$31,854,194.98

DISBURSEMENTS.

Losses paid.....	\$6,087,620.70
Endowments paid.....	1,066,736.11
Annuities, Dividends, Surrender Values, etc.....	5,817,075.67
Total paid policy-holders.....	\$12,671,432.48
Commissions.....	3,918,142.69
Agency Expenses, Physicians' Fees, Advertising and Printing.....	1,550,614.28
Taxes, Salaries and other expenses.....	1,317,842.05
Total Disbursements.....	\$19,458,089.80

Number of Policies issued during 1891, 52,746. New Insurance, \$152,064,962.
Total number of Policies in force January 1, 1892, 193,432. Amount at Risk, \$614,824,713.

JOHN A. McCALL, President.

HENRY TUCK, Vice-President.
ARCHIBALD H. WEICH, 2d Vice-President.
GEORGE W. PERKINS, 3d Vice-President.
RUFUS W. WEEKS, Actuary.

A. HUNTINGTON, M. D., Medical Director
CHARLES C. WHITNEY, Secretary.
HORACE C. RICHARDSON, Ass't. Actuary.
THEODORE M. BANTA, Cashier.

DEPARTMENT FOR CANADA.

DAVID BURKE, GENERAL MANAGER.

HEAD OFFICE:—Company's Building, Montreal.

**BRANCH OFFICES: { Board of Trade Bld'g, Toronto.
Union Bank Bld'g, Halifax, N.S.**