

The Insurance & Finance Chronicle.

Vol. XVI.

MONTREAL, JUNE 15, 1896.

No. 12.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Incorporated by Royal Charter in the City of Edinburgh.

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL, - \$15,000,000.
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, \$13,750,000. PAID-UP CAPITAL, \$3,437,500.
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1895, EXCEED \$62,000,000.

THE EIGHTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY was held in Edinburgh, on Friday, May 31st, 1896, in the terms of the Constitution of the Company. Baron Schroder, in the Chair.

A REPORT by the DIRECTORS was submitted, showing the following results for 1895:—

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Net Premiums received during the year 1895, after deducting re-insurances, amounted to **\$7,392,070**
 The Net Losses by fire during the year were, after deducting re-insurances, **4,364,860**

This embraces not merely all Losses actually ascertained and paid, but a full estimate of all Claims that had arisen prior to December 31, 1895.

The Fire Funds, after giving effect to the addition to the Premium Reserve, and providing for payment of the Dividend and Bonus, aforementioned, and irrespective of the Paid-up Capital, are as follows:—

Reserve,	\$7,750,000	
Premium Reserve,	2,956,830	
Dividend Reserve,	762,500	
Balance carried forward,	367,000	\$11,836,330

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

4,553 New Policies were issued during the year, assuming **\$7,361,075**
 The New Premiums on which amount to **275,125**

The ordinary new business is the largest ever completed by the Company in one year.

During the year, 642 deaths, by which 798 Policies emerged, were proved, and 50 Endowments matured. The sums which thus became payable, after deducting re-insurances, amounted, with bonus additions, to **2,895,845**

The Income for the year of the Life Branch, from Premiums and Interest, amounted to **4,771,950**

In the Annuity Branch, 720 Bonds were issued, securing Annuities amounting to \$236,765, for which the Company received the sum of \$2,676,805 by Single Payment, and \$3,490 by Annual Premium.

During the year, 168 Annuities have fallen in, relieving the Company of the sum of \$54,965 yearly of Immediate Annuities, \$7,825 of Deferred and Survivorship Annuities and Deferred Payments.

The Life Fund now amounts to **\$34,241,850**
 The Annuity Fund now amounts to **11,481,225**

NOTE.—In the above figures \$ are taken as the equivalent of £1.

CHIEF OFFICES:

EDINBURGH—64 PRINCES STREET. LONDON—61 THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.

CANADIAN BRANCH, HEAD OFFICE, 72 St. Francois Xavier Street, MONTREAL.

CANADIAN DIRECTORS:

W. W. OGILVIE, Esq. ARCHIBALD MACNIDER, Esq.
 HENRI BARBEAU, Esq.

THOMAS DAVIDSON, Managing Director. **RANDALL DAVIDSON,** Superintendent.
R. MACDONALD, Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE
FOR CANADA
ROYAL BUILDING,
MONTREAL.

ROYAL



WILLIAM TATLEY,
Resident Director
GEORGE SIMPSON,
Manager
W. MACKAY,
Assistant Manager

INSURANCE


ABSOLUTE SECURITY
UNLIMITED LIABILITY.
RATES MODERATE.
LOSSES EQUITABLY ADJUSTED
AND PROMPTLY PAID.

IN THE WORLD.
THE LARGEST FIRE OFFICE

COMPANY

TOTAL NET FIRE INCOME
\$10,162,250.
CANADIAN FIRE
INCOME
\$568,971.

MILLS



CANADIAN BRANCH
OFFICE
MONTREAL
M. C. HINSHAW,
Branch Manager.

HEAD OFFICE
LONDON, ENG
SAM. J. PIPKIN,
Manager.

ASSURANCE

COMPANY

FOUNDED CAPITAL \$6,000,000. A.D. 1808

ESTABLISHED IN CANADA 1863.

CANADIAN BRANCH,

HEAD OFFICE,
MONTREAL

LONDON & LANCASHIRE

LIFE

Assurance Company.

EXTRACTS FROM ANNUAL REPORT, 1895:

New Policies issued, 2310, for	....	....	....	83,837,850
Premium Income,	....	....	....	1,003,345
Total Income,	....	....	....	1,173,395
Added to Funds during Year 1895,	....	....	....	420,055
Total Funds,	....	....	....	5,345,700

LOW RATES. ABSOLUTE SECURITY. PROMPT SETTLEMENTS.

B. HAL BROWN,
Manager.

J. L. KERR,
Assistant Manager.

ANNUAL INCOME, \$1,173,395.

AMOUNT PAID POLICY-HOLDERS IN 7 YEARS,
\$3,010,622.

INCREASE IN ASSETS IN 7 YEARS,
\$2,342,745

UNION BANK OF CANADA.

Established 1865. HEAD OFFICE, Quebec.
 Paid-up Capital, \$1,200,000.
DIRECTORS:
 Andrew Thomson, President. H. J. Price, Vice-President.
 Hon. Thor. McGreevy, H. Olroux, D. G. Thomson, E. J. Halo.
 E. K. Webb, Cashier.
FOREIGN AGENTS.
 London—The Alliance Bank Limited. Liverpool—Bank of Liverpool, Limited.
 New York—National Park Bank. Boston—Lincoln National Bank.
 Minneapolis—First National Bank.
BRANCHES:
 Alexandria. Iroquois. Merrickville. Montreal.
 Ottawa. Quebec. Smiths Falls. Toronto.
 Winnipeg. W. Winchester. Lethbridge, Alberta.

LA BANQUE JACQUES-CARTIER

1862—HEAD OFFICE, MONTREAL—1896
CAPITAL (all paid up) \$500,000
RESERVE FUND \$235,000
DIRECTORS:
 Hon. ALPH. DESJARDINS, President. A. S. HANELIN, Esq., Vice President.
 A. L. DE MAITIGNY, Esq., DUMONT LAVIOLETTE, Esq., G. N. DUCHARME,
 TANCHEDE BIEVSKU, Manager.
 E. G. ST. JEAN, Inspector.
BRANCHES:
 Montreal (St. Jean Baptiste) St. Anne de la Perade Valleyfield
 " (St. Cuvilloutte) Edmonton, N.W.T. Fraserville
 " (St. Henri) Quebec (St. Sauveur) Hull, P.Q.
 " (Hun Ontario) (St. John St.) St. Hyacinthe
 Beauharnois, P.Q. Victoriaville
SAVINGS DEPARTMENTS AT HEAD OFFICE AND BRANCHES
FOREIGN AGENTS:
 LONDON, ENGLAND. Credit Lyonnais
 Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris.
 PARIS, FRANCE. Credit Lyonnais.
 Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris.
 NEW YORK. The Bank of America.
 The National Bank of the Republic.
 BOSTON, MASS. The Merchants National Bank.
 The National Bank of the Commonwealth.
 " " The National Bank of the Republic.
 CHICAGO, ILL. Bank of Montreal.
 Letters of Credit for travellers, etc., etc. Issued and available on all parts of the world. Collections made in all parts of the Dominion.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO.
 Paid-up Capital - - \$6,000,000 Rest - \$1,000,000
DIRECTORS.
 GEO. A. COX, Esq., President. JOHN I. DAVIDSON, Esq., Vice-Pres.
 W. B. Hamilton, Esq. Matthew Leggett, Esq.
 Jas. Crathorn, Esq. Robt. Kilgour, Esq.
 John Hoskin, Q.C., J.L.D.
 B. E. WALKER, General Manager. J. H. PLUMMER, Ass't Gen. Manager.
 A. H. IRELAND, Inspector. G. H. MELDRUM, Ass't. Inspector
 New York—Alex. Laird and Wm. Gray, Agents.
 TORONTO—Head Office: 19-25 King Street West. City Branches: 712 Queen Street East, 450 Yonge Street, 791 Yonge Street, 286 College Street, 541 Queen Street West, 399 Parliament Street, 163 King St. East.

BRANCHES.

Ayr	Collingwood	Montreal	S. Ste. Marie	Walkerville
Barrie	Dundas	Orangeville	Seaford	Waterford
Bellefleur	Dumville	Ottawa	Simcoe	Waterloo
Berlin	Galt	Paris	Stratford	Windsor
Blonholm	Goderich	Parkhill	Strathroy	Woodstock
Brantford	Guelph	Peterboro'	Thorold	Winnipeg
Cayuga	Hamilton	St. Catharines	Toronto Jct.	
Chatham	London	Sarnia	Walkerton	

Montreal Branch—Main Office, 157 St. James St., A. M. Crombie, Manager, J. L. Harcourt, Ass't. Manager. City Branches: 19 Chabouillez Square, and 276 St. Lawrence Street.

BANKERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.
 GREAT BRITAIN—The Bank of Scotland.
 GERMANY—Deutsche Bank.
 INDIA, CHINA AND JAPAN—The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
 PARIS, FRANCE—Lazard Frères & Co.
 AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND—Union Bank of Australia.
 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM—J. Mathieu & Fils.
 NEW YORK—The American Exchange National Bank of New York.
 SAN FRANCISCO—The Bank of British Columbia.
 CHICAGO—The American Exchange National Bank of Chicago.
 BRITISH COLUMBIA—The Bank of British Columbia.
 HAMILTON, BERMUDA—The Bank of Bermuda.
 KINGSTON, JAMAICA—Bank of Nova Scotia.
 DULUTH—First National Bank.
 Commercial Credits issued for use in all parts of the world. Exceptional facilities for this class of business in Europe, the East and West Indies, China, Japan, South America, Australia, and New Zealand.

Travellers Circular Letters of Credit issued for use in all parts of the World.

THE CANADA LIFE

Assurance Company

Head Office, Hamilton, Ont.

Established 1847

CAPITAL and FUNDS over **\$16,300,000**

ANNUAL INCOME over **\$2,700,000**

Sum Assured over **\$70,500,000**

President, A. G. Ramsay. Secretary, R. Hills.
 Superintendent, W. T. Ramsay.

THE MOLSONS BANK.

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT, 1855.

Paid-up Capital \$2,000,000
 Rest Fund 1,375,000

HEAD OFFICE, MONTREAL.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

JOHN H. R. MOLSON, President. S.H. EWING, Vice President.
 HENRY ARCHBALD. W. M. RAMSAY.
 W. M. MACPHERSON. SAMUEL FINLEY.
 J. P. CLEGGHORN.
 F. WOLFERSTAN THOMAS, Gen. Manager. A. D. DUENFORD, Insp.
 H. LOCKWOOD, Ass't. Insp.

BRANCHES.

Aylmer, Ont.	Meaford	Owen Sound	Trenton
Brockville	Montreal	Ridgetown	Waterloo, Ont.
Calgary, N.W.T.	"	St. Catharines	Winnipeg
Clinton	St. Catharines Branch	Smith's Falls	Woodstock, Ont.
Exeter	St. Thomas	Sorel, P.Q.	
Hamilton	Morrisburg	St. Thomas, Ont.	
London	Norwich	Toronto	
	Ottawa	Toronto Junction	

AGENTS IN CANADA—Quebec—Eastern Townships Bank. Ontario—Dominion Bank, Imperial Bank, Bank of Commerce. New Brunswick—Bank of N.B. Nova Scotia—Halifax Banking Co. Prince Edward Island—Merchants' Bank of P.E.I., Summerside Bank. British Columbia—Bank of B.C. Manitoba—Imperial Bank. Newfoundland—Commercial Bank. St. Johns.

AGENTS IN EUROPE—London—Farrs Banking Co., and the Alliance Bank Ltd., Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co., Morton Rose & Co. Liverpool—Bank of Liverpool. Cork—Munster and Limerick Bank, Ltd. Paris—Credit Lyonnais. Berlin—Deutsche Bank. Antwerp, Belgium—La Banque d'Anvers. Hamburg—Hesse, Newman & Co.

AGENTS IN THE UNITED STATES—New York Mechanics' Nat. Bank, W. Watson and R. Y. Heblen, agents; Bank of Montreal, Morton, Bliss & Co., National City Bank. Boston—State Nat. Bank. Portland—Casco Nat. Bank. Chicago—First National Bank. Cleveland—Commercial Nat. Bank. Detroit—Commercial Nat. Bank. Buffalo—The City Bank. San Francisco—Bank of British Columbia. Milwaukee—The Wisconsin National Bank. Butte, Montana—North Western National Bank. Great Falls, Montana—First National Bank. Toledo—Second National Bank. Minneapolis—First National Bank.

Collections made in all parts of the Dominion, and returns promptly remitted at lowest rates of exchange. Commercial Letters of Credit and Travellers' Circular Letters issued, available in all parts of the world.

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.

Ontario Mutual Life

Head Office, WATERLOO, Ont.

As at December 31st, 1895.

1894—Total Assets.....	\$2,806,759.59	1895—Interest Income..	\$ 141,916.90
1895— "	3,136,012.05	INCREASE.....	\$ 12,658.56
INCREASE.....	\$ 299,152.16	1894—Actual Death Losses	\$ 138,757.00
1894—Reserve	\$2,506,547.00	1895— "	130,781.00
1895— "	2,983,283.00	DECREASE.....	\$ 7,976.00
INCREASE.....	\$ 396,723.00	1894—Total Expenses..	\$ 117,150.25
1894—Total Income....	\$ 639,881.62	1895— "	116,501.39
1895— "	733,070.74	DECREASE.....	\$ 957.86
INCREASE.....	\$ 75,490.22	1894—Ratio of Expenses	to Income .. 17.79 per c.
1894—Premium Income \$	527,131.15	1895—Ratio of Expenses	to Income..... 15.84
1895— "	590,162.84	DECREASE.....	1.95 per c.
INCREASE.....	\$ 63,031.69		
1894—Interest Income..	\$ 132,858.34		

Surplus on 4 per cent. basis \$198,735.66
 " " " " Gov't basis. 315,000.00

NET RESULTS OF 1895:

PROGRESS—In all items that pertain to growth and solidity.

RETRENCHMENT—An actual decrease in items of loss and expense.

L. E. ROWMAN, M.P., President. C. M. TAYLOR, Vice-President.
 W. H. RIDDELL, Secretary. Wm. HENDRY, Manager.

Total Funds in Hand over \$18,000,000

Head Office for

307RE DANE STREET.

Canada:

INCORPORATED BY

Montreal

ROYAL CHARTER

The London Assurance

A.D. 1720

Upwards of

175 Years Old

E. A. LILLY, Manager

NORTHERN

Assurance Company of London.

ESTABLISHED 1836.

Capital and Funds, \$36,465,000. Revenue, \$5,545,000
 Dominion Deposit, \$200,000.

CANADIAN BRANCH OFFICE:

1724 Notre Dame Street, - Montreal.

ROBERT W. TYRE, Manager.

G. E. MOBERLEY, Inspector.

PROVIDENT SAVINGS LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

OF NEW YORK.

CHARLES E. WILLARD, President.

ESTABLISHED 1875.

Income in 1894.....	\$2,249,398.12
Assets, December 31, 1894.....	1,787,181.85
Liabilities, Actuaries' 4% Valuation.....	960,930.53
Surplus, Actuaries' 4%.....	826,251.32
Policies issued in 1894.....	\$22,114,526.00

Active Agents wanted in every City and County in the Dominion of Canada.

Apply to

R. H. MATSON,

General Manager for Canada,

37 YONGE STREET, TORONTO.

1850

THE

1895

United States Life Insurance Co.,

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

This old and reliable Company now has the experience of forty-five years of practical Life Insurance, which has taught it that the *sine qua non* of success is the adoption of good plans of insurance, and the pursuit of a liberal policy towards both its Insured and its Agents. These essentials it possesses in an eminent degree, but judiciously tempered by that conservatism which is the best possible safeguard of the policy-holder. Its contracts are incontestable after two years. They are non-forfeiting, providing generally for either paid up policy or extended insurance, at the option of the policy-holder. It gives ten days of grace in payment of all premiums. Its course during the past forty-five years abundantly demonstrates its absolute security.

Active and successful Agents, wishing to represent this Company, may communicate with the President, at the Home Office, 261 Broadway, New York.

OFFICERS:

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C. P. FRALEIGH,	Secretary.
A. WHEELWRIGHT,	Assistant Secretary.
WAL. T. STANDEN,	Actuary.
ARTHUR C. PERKY,	Cashier.
JOHN P. MUNN,	Medical Director.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

GEO. G. WILLIAMS,	Pres. Chem. Nat. Bank.
JOHN J. TUCKER,	Builder.
E. H. PERKINS, JR.,	Pres. Importers' and Traders' Nat. Bank
JAMES R. PLUM,	Leather

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R. C. LEVESCONTE
Barrister, Solicitor, Notary, etc.,

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 TELEPHONE 689.
 CABLE, "LEVESCONTE" TORONTO.

MCCARTHY, OSLER, HOSKIN & CREELMAN.
Barristers, Solicitors, Etc.
 Freehold Buildings, - - - Victoria Street,
TORONTO.

D'Alton McCarthy, Q.C., B. B. Osler, Q.C., John Hoskin, Q.C., LL.D.,
 Adam R. Creelman, Q.C., F. W. Harcourt, W. B. Raymond,
 W. M. Douglas, H. S. Osler, Leighton G. McCarthy.

ESTABLISHED 1875
F. BARTELS,
 ST. HYACINTHE, QUE.
 General Insurance Agent.
 Fire, Life, Accident, Guaranteed
 VICE-CONSUL OF THE UNITED STATES.

HATTON & MCLENNAN
ADVOCATES,
 British Empire Building,
 1724 Notre Dame St.
MONTREAL.
 J. CASSIE HATTON, Q.C.
 FRANCIS MCLENNAN, B. A., B.C.L.

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 GENERAL INSURANCE AGENTS.
 REPRESENTING:
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 GUARANTEE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA,
 INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA,
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 Tel. 1067. Offices: { Wall Building,
 Corner KING and BAY STREETS, TORONTO.

G. L. RIDOUT,
 DISTRICT MANAGER,
 Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada.
SHERBROOKE, P.Q.

Telephone 1907. Cable Address: "INDEX"
C. F. G. JOHNSON,
AGENT - - - - - Fire Insurance - - - - - BROKER
 MONTREAL AGENCY
 CALEDONIAN INSURANCE CO. OF EDINBURGH
 BRITISH AMERICA ASSURANCE CO. OF TORONTO
 CANADA LIFE BUILDING
 Corner St. James and St. Peter Streets, Montreal

J. B. MORISSETTE,
 GENERAL AGENT
 Guardian Assurance Co.,
 Lancashire Insurance Co.,
 Union Assurance Society of London.
 North America Life Ins. Co.
 Montreal Plate Glass Office
 Office: 82 St. Peter Street,
QUEBEC.

NAPOLEON PICARD,
 Insurance Agent,
 1731 Notre Dame St.
Montreal.

BAMFORD & CARSON
 General Insurance Agents and Brokers,
 REPRESENTING
LANCASHIRE FIRE INS. CO. - - - - -
SUN FIRE OFFICE.
 Offices:
 Temple Building, 183 St. James St., MONTREAL

CHARLES RAYNES,
 Advocate, Barrister and Solicitor,
 COMMISSIONER FOR ONTARIO & MANITOBA
 SAVINGS BANK CHAMBERS,
 180 ST. JAMES STREET,
MONTREAL.

Telephone 1743.
A. BROWNING
 Insurance Broker,
 REPRESENTING:
 Northern Fire Assurance Co., Travelers Accident Insurance Co.
 British Empire Mutual Life Ass'ce. Co. Dominion Burglary Guarantee Co.
 Surplus Lines placed with First Class Foreign Companies.
 Office: 1724 Notre Dame St. Montreal.

F. F. MACNAB,
 General Insurance Agent,
 ARNPRIOR, ONT.

(S. M. ROGERS.) (E. F. HUBBELL.)
ROGERS & HUBBELL
 Insurance and General Agents
 DISTRICT MANAGERS—
 TEMPERANCE and GENERAL
 LIFE ASSURANCE CO.
 97 Sparks Street, OTTAWA.

J. E. LOGAN
 Insurance Adjuster,
 ROOM 15, BRITISH EMPIRE BUILDING,
 No. 1724 Notre Dame Street,
 TELEPHONE 1743. MONTREAL.

KIRBY & COLGATE,
WINNIPEG.
 General Agents for Manitoba and
 the N. W. Terr. of the following
 Companies.
 British Empire Mutual Life Assurance Co.
 Caledonian Insurance Co. of Edinburgh
 Connecticut Fire Insurance Co.
 Manchester Fire Assurance Company.
 North British & Mercantile Insurance Co.
 Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society,
 American Surety Co.
 British America (Marine) Assurance Co.
 Canada Accident Assurance Co.

PERCY R. GAULT,
 Special Agent,
 Royal Insurance Co.
MONTREAL.

DOMINION ADJUSTMENT BUREAU.
 Chas. D. Hanson and John Kennedy, Proprietors.
 Adjusters of Fire Losses,
 Burglary and other Claims.
 ROOM 58, IMPERIAL BUILDING,
 TELEPHONE 1131. MONTREAL

(J. A. FRIGON.) (S. MARCHAND.)
FRIGON & MARCHAND,
 General Insurance Agents
THREE RIVERS, P.Q.

ESTABLISHED 1885.
W. F. FINDLAY,
 Chartered Accountant,
 Adjuster of Fire Losses
 47 St. James St. South,
HAMILTON, ONT.

O. LEGER
 Manager French Department of
THE SUN LIFE ASSURANCE CO.,
 Room 7 Sun Life Building,
MONTREAL.

J. F. RUTTAN,
 Real Estate and
 Fire Insurance
 FORT ARTHUR and FORT
 WILLIAM.
 P.O. Address: Port Arthur, Ont.

ESTABLISHED 1809.

TOTAL FUNDS EXCEED
\$65,157,780.00

FIRE & LIFE

Canadian Investments
\$5,564,200.00

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE

INSURANCE CO.

Directors, { HENRI BARBEAU, Esq.
W. W. OGILVIE, Esq.
ARCH'D MACNIDER, Esq.

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

Agents in all Cities and Principal Towns in Canada.

THOMAS DAVIDSON.
Managing Director.

ESTABLISHED 1825.

Standard Life Assurance Company
OF EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND.

HEAD OFFICE FOR CANADA, MONTREAL.

INVESTED FUNDS,	\$40,732,590
INVESTMENTS IN CANADA,	12,500,000
DEPOSITED WITH CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, over	3,000,000

Low Rates, Absolute Security, Unconditional Policies.
Claims settled immediately on proof of death and title.

No delays.

J. HUTTON BALFOUR,
Superintendent.

W. M. RAMSAY,
Manager for Canada.

THE ALLIANCE
Assurance
Company

The Insurance & Finance Chronicle.

Vol. XVI.

MONTREAL, JUNE 15, 1896.

No. 12.

THE Insurance and Finance Chronicle

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

AT 1724 NOTRE DAME ST., MONTREAL.
R. WILSON SMITH, Proprietor.

Annual Subscription (in Advance) \$2.00
Prices for Advertisements on application

All Communications intended for THE CHRONICLE must be in hand not later than the 10th and 25th of the month to secure insertion.

The Victoria Disaster.

THE accident, so called, on Queen's Birthday at Victoria, B.C., which was fatal to nearly one hundred persons, has been proven to have arisen from a defective bridge. In these days a weak bridge is utterly inexcusable, it can only arise from criminal neglect in some quarter. If the builder was incompetent, then whoever employed him was guilty, but not alone, as incompetent men ought not to take such work. If the builder was competent but careless, then on him alone rests the responsibility for whatever structural defects existed. But, the owners of the bridge, and the company using it for street car traffic, are alleged to have been fully aware of its dangerous condition. Bridge building is no mystery, it was thoroughly understood by the Romans and practised by them on a great scale. Bridges exist in Europe that have borne heavy traffic for centuries. An iron bridge equal to any load can be ordered from established firms with no more trouble than ordering a suit of clothes, and executed with as little fuss. The Victoria bridge is reported to have been known to be so fragile as to be risky for heavy loads, yet electric cars over-laden were being run across it as though they were on solid ground. The whole incident is deplorable, and discreditable to those who were responsible for the safety of the bridge, and the safety of the passengers. Companies to whose care the public entrust their lives, are under a far more serious responsibility than they generally recognise.

If after enquiry it is proven that the victims of the Victoria catastrophe lost their lives owing to negligence or recklessness, it will be essential for the public interest that some penalty be inflicted which will be a wholesome warning to all those who are responsible for the safety of bridges, and for the safe conduct of passenger traffic.

Increase in size of Silver Dollars.

SOME time ago the CHRONICLE showed by illustrations how the weight of silver coins operated to prevent their more extensive use. Ten dollars in gold would be an inappreciable weight in a purse, twenty would not be troublesome, but \$10 in silver would be a nuisance to carry around, and \$20 in silver would be an intolerable load. We then said that the difference of weight between gold and silver was an insurmountable obstacle in the way of the latter being ever a popular currency. This difficulty which we pointed out, is now exciting some attention in the United States as, if the silver dollar is made an honest coin, and not left a mere monetary token, which just as well might be made of tin or nickel, the weight of the dollar piece will be doubled, and become altogether too cumbersome to be carried in a purse or pocket. Silver then is in this dilemma, it cannot be used for making sound coins, without their becoming a nuisance from excessive size, and clumsy weight, so the more honest the silver dollar is made the more unpopular will it become. It is a peculiarly unfortunate circumstance for a form of currency to have its usefulness reduced in the proportion of its being sound. That is the position of the American dollar; the outlook, therefore, for its extended use is very dark. We believe this coin in time will become a curiosity, just as the old clumsy five-shilling piece is in England. Silver seems destined to be banished from the purse to the sideboard.

A deposit as guarantee of notes.

THE case of Insky v. the Bank of Hochelaga illustrates a point we recently made that the best course to pursue to avoid complications with a banking account is to have whatever arrangements are desired, made as simple as possible. The plaintiff in this case sued the Bank for refusing payment of two of his cheques when he had funds enough for their payment to his credit at the time. The defence of the bank was that, although such was the case, there was an agreement between it and the depositor that his deposit should be held to guarantee certain notes under discount for about the same amount. The arrangement appears to have been quite clear and free from any confusing qualifications, so the case was dismissed.

Inhalation
disease germs
an accident?

In the *Legal News*, Mr. Eliel, a prominent lawyer of Chicago, discusses "The Scope of Accident Insurance." He endeavours to establish that the inhalation of disease germs constitutes an accident caused by "external, violent, and accidental means." He draws an analogy between this and the inhaling of coal gas, or accidental drinking of poison, as "in the light of modern science death from the attacks of any bacillus, accidentally taken into the body, is produced by external violent and accidental means in the same sense as the accidental drinking of poison," etc. It seems to us that the analogy is not so close as Mr. Eliel supposes. The inhalation of coal gas is very rarely indeed an accident; as a rule it is a natural consequence of serious negligence, and under all circumstances it is avoidable by ordinary care. Between a risk which can be neutralized by prudence, and one impossible to foresee or guard against, the analogy is not apparent, as the one arises from human folly, the other from man's helplessness. The one is very easy to trace as a cause of death, nothing easier, while the other is, after all, a speculation, as though the bacillus theory is held by scientists, they cannot tell how bacilli came to be lodged in the human system. A claim under an accident policy based on Mr. Eliel's theory, that the deceased policyholder had inhaled bacilli by "external, violent and accidental means" would not be provable in a Court of Law. Proof could never go beyond a medical probability, whereas in a case of death by inhaling gas or drinking poison, proof could amount to absolute demonstration. We therefore doubt the inhalation of disease germs falling within, "The Scope of Accident Insurance."

SOME of the largest practical calculations, upon which every year hundreds of millions of dollars depend, all turn upon whether in a certain connection the figure 4 is correct or 5 on such apparent trifles do vast issues hang. The question is, What is the annual consumption of wheat or flour per head in countries where it is the staple food of the people? Mr. Atkinson, the eminent American statistician, states the average ration of wheat flour to each adult person in the United States as one barrel each year. He rates as adults all children of 10 years and upwards, and two children of younger ages as equal to one adult. The estimates of consumption per head by other experts range from $4\frac{1}{4}$ to $4\frac{3}{4}$ bushels of wheat per annum. The population being known and the yield of a harvest, it is a mere school-boy task to decide what surplus, if any, would remain after providing enough for the home consumption. From this, highly important information was obtained as to the prospects of the grain trade for some time to come, and from this data the price of wheat comes to be fixed, being affected temporarily by speculative movements. Bradstreet some time ago sent out 5000 circulars throughout the States and Canada, distributed amongst hotels, schools, asylums, and private families asking information as to the number of consumers and the annual con-

sumption of flour. These returns, on careful analysis, bring out the result, that the average consumption of flour per head on this continent is one and one-fifth barrels yearly. This is considerably higher than the figure generally accepted as correct, and in reliance upon which hundreds of millions of dollars have been staked every year. But for years there has been a suspicion of inaccuracy in the commonly accepted estimate, as, year by year, the surplus left over at close of each season differed from calculations, a fact which disturbed the market, and gave occasion to operations in the wheat market very like gambling. The exact consumption of flour per head, when once established, would do much to steady prices, and protect farmers from sacrificing their crops under the influence of reports published by speculators. It will also be useful to householders to know that each adult in the family—children being calculated as previously stated—consumes one and one-fifth barrels of flour per annum.

A Church Insurance Company

THE attendants at the recent Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held at Cleveland, wandered away from ecclesiastical affairs by deciding to go into the fire insurance business. By this step they cause that Church to become a competitor with the regular insurance companies. It is an inscrutable mystery why organizations of a non-trading character, such as municipal bodies and churches, should be so fascinated by the fire insurance business as to tempt them to leave their natural spheres to undertake a business of which they have no practical knowledge. Possibly they are moved by the same curiosity which has led persons into touching a buzz saw to see how rapidly it moves, an experiment which they usually have reason to regret. It seems to us suicidal for a Church to enter upon secular business, as it thereby diminishes the legitimate profits of those who have invested money in the enterprise, and are looking to it for daily bread; consequently lowers their ability to give to Church objects. If a Church goes into a competitive struggle for trade it is certain to have its tone as a religious society lowered, and to excite antagonisms which are likely to besmirch its garments, and scandalize its name. "My Kingdom is not of this world," said the founder of the Church, but those who are ruling authorities in a Church which has gone into the fire insurance business, cause that Church as an institution to be inspired with worldly motives, and to be given to the ways and habits of this world. The whole thing is most incongruous. The regular companies will watch their ecclesiastic risks departing without any deep regrets. Churches and parsonages are inflammable, and are by no means a very profitable class of business. The Church underwriters will learn ere long that it is undesirable to have only one class of risks, and the enormous profits they imagine are made out of the insurance of churches will certainly never be realized, the probability being that the whole scheme will collapse, and bring dishonor and shame on the Church which sank down from its divine functions to become a money-making corporation.

The Mercantile
Fire Insurance
Company.

THE recent acquisition of the Capital Stock of the above Company by the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, has induced some persons to state that this means the absorption and closing of the "Mercantile" entirely, which is calculated to injure its business. The following message has been received by Mr. Lockie, Managing Director of the Mercantile, from the Head Office of the London and Lancashire:

"Our Directors, realizing that the 'Mercantile' is peculiarly a local Company, with its value largely dependent upon the maintenance of its past independence, have come to the deliberate conclusion that there can be no object or advantage in that independence being terminated, but on the contrary desire that it shall continue to work as a Canadian Company, with all the benefits which local traditions and connection imply."

This is so explicit that the injurious reports to a contrary effect should cease, as they are wholly unjustified. A full report of the London and Lancashire will appear in next issue.

THE EXPENSE LOADING OF THE LIFE PREMIUM EXCEEDED.

The vital question in life insurance, next to the selection of the risks, is the expense of getting and caring for the business. So long as a company's mortality does not exceed the table-rate, and the expense of management does not exceed the "loading" portion of the premium, its affairs will move along from year to year on mathematically safe lines, assuming, of course, what, as a matter of fact, has never failed to be the case, that the interest realized on the investment of the reserve portion of the funds shall never fall below the rate assumed when the premium rate is fixed. Have the life companies as a whole on this side the water, especially those of the United States, kept within the lines indicated? So far as the experience of the past ten or twelve years is concerned, facts, we think, show that the question must be answered in the negative. Let us see.

It is a fact generally accepted by well-informed students of the business, that under the methods of management prevailing, and which for several years have prevailed, among American companies, a majority of the companies have expended each year more than a hundred per cent. of the first year's premiums in the getting of new business. The total expense of caring for the business after it has been secured may safely be said to exceed twelve and a half per cent. of the premiums. It is estimated by good authorities that under modern hothouse methods and lapse-producing practices the average life of the policy is about five years. Suppose a company issues a policy of \$1,000 at age 35 on the whole life plan, the standard table premium being \$26.49. A hundred per cent. of the premium for first year's expenses will be, of course, \$26.49. Twelve and a half per cent. for taking care of the business, will be, four years more, \$13.24. The mortality for the five years will call for about \$45 and the reserve, Actuaries' 4 per cent., demands \$61.34, or

a total at the end of the five years of \$146.07. The total premiums received for the five years will have been \$132.45 and the interest assumed \$5 more, or altogether \$137.45. This lacks just \$8.62 of balancing the account on the policy transaction. It is obvious that there must be a large saving in the mortality claims, as between the actual and the table rate and from interest above the assumed four per cent., or else the company is borrowing from the future in a perilous fashion. Charging only 90 per cent. of the first year's premium to new business, and the account would still show \$5.97 on the wrong side.

With the majority of American companies we fully believe, however, that the average first year's expense on the business, as of late conducted, will exceed rather than fall below a hundred per cent. We notice that recently the *Argus*, of Chicago, presented a table designed to show the expense of obtaining new business both for 1894 and 1895 of the companies active in searching for new business, basing its calculation on the designated commissions, and bonuses to agents, and medical examinations as given by the companies in the official reports, plus one-fourth of the miscellaneous expenses, which gives 81 to 82.2 per cent. respectively for the two years as the expense for new business. This is evidently an ultra-conservative estimate, for if the other three fourths of all miscellaneous expenses, including commissions, etc., be charged up to expense of caring for the old business, it would call for from 15 to 19 per cent. of the total premiums, which is a good deal too much. This over-estimate charged up to new premiums would, we think, carry the new business expense to new premiums easily up to a hundred per cent. At all events, whatever the exact figures, which, of course, cannot be accurately fixed from the data furnished in the annual statements, it is in evidence from the reports, that while the surplus, excepting tontine surplus, of the companies to liabilities has increased only about three per cent. during the past dozen years, the average dividends to policy holders have decreased fully fifteen per cent. As everybody well-informed knows, the dividends of the companies making extraordinary exertions for new business are merely nominal. The saving from a favorable death-rate, from interest, from surrendered policies and other sources, has mainly gone to make good the overdrawn expense portion of the premium, instead of finding its way into the pockets of the policy-holders.

Fortunately there are indications that the company managers have come at last to realize the peril of extravagance in business getting, and are likely to moderate their desires for big business at a ruinous price. We shall be disappointed if the record made by the American companies in 1896 is not a decided improvement on that of the past ten years. The ratio of commissions and bonuses on new business was about one and a half per cent. less in 1895 than in 1894, while the total management expense to total premiums has decreased nearly one per cent. These are small improvements, but they furnish the ground for hoping to see a still more decided improvement in the situation.

PRESENTATION TO MR. J. H. SCOTT.

It would add much to the sum of human happiness if some of the kindly and generous appreciation expressed towards the dead, were manifested to the living whose deserts it would recognize. It would especially encourage young men were they to see a life of merit bring its palm of reward before being too late to be received by the winner. Mr. James Henry Scott, general manager and secretary of the Gresham Life Office, London, has been honored by a testimonial of a character which is all the more gratifying from its rarity. No special event inspired this presentation, it was a spontaneous demonstration of the high esteem entertained for him by the "Field Forces of the Society" of which he is chief executive officer.

The Gresham is indeed fortunate in having a Chief who inspires such enthusiastic loyalty amongst those under his command. It is also fortunate in possessing a staff of workers who so frankly, and so generously, testified to the business ability and social worth of their superior officer.

THE CHRONICLE extends its heartiest congratulations to Mr. Scott on the presentation narrated below, sincerely hoping it may serve to mitigate the trials of business, and be a source of very pleasant reflections for as many years as he may desire.

On 19th May last, Mr. James Henry Scott, the General Manager and Secretary of the Gresham Life Office, was presented with a valuable testimonial from the officers and branch managers of the Society. The presentation was made in the board-room of the Gresham, at St. Mildred's House, London, by Mr. Alex. Lawson, the assistant secretary, in the presence of the London staff and some of the principal home and foreign branch managers. Mr. Lawson said: We are here this afternoon to do honor to our much esteemed general manager and secretary, Mr. Scott. I have been asked to make a presentation to him on behalf of the officers and branch managers of the Society, and I don't think I can do better than read to you their open letter to him, the terms of which have been inscribed in this album. To

James H. Scott, Esq.,
General Manager and Secretary,
Gresham Life Assurance Society, Ltd.,
St. Mildred's House, London, E.C.

DEAR SIR,—The gentlemen whose names are inscribed in this album, and who have the privilege of being more directly associated with you in that sphere of the Society's operations which comprise the organisation of its branches and the production of its new business (home, foreign and colonial), desire to express to you by some slight record which shall be simple, yet lasting, the deep feelings of esteem and of admiration which they continue to cherish for the sterling qualities that have not only endeared you to them, but have secured for you the high and responsible position you now occupy. You have won their esteem by your business ability, and their friendship by your unflinching cordiality; and it is their earnest hope that you may be long spared to hold the prominent place you now occupy as their chief officer, and the no less prominent place you fill in the heart of every signatory of this address.

This testimonial is accompanied by a presentation of

silver plate, together with a present personal to Mrs. Scott, which the subscribers beg of you to accept, and which they sincerely hope you may have health and happiness to enjoy. With every good wish they remain,

Dear Sir, Your obedient servants,
ALEX. LAWSON, G. STUART SMITH,
EDWIN JUSTICAN. W. GRANT,
A. McC. BOPP, JOHN SIBERRY.

LONDON, 10th May, 1896.

The names of the subscribers are as follows: T. Aitken, Glasgow; J. Alguer, Madrid; G. Alguer, Barcelona; E. P. Bartlett, Nottingham; A. McC. Ropp, Vienna; S. Feld, Budapesth; C. Feld, jun., Budapesth; J. C. Goulding, Cardiff; W. Grant, London; G. F. Hawkes, Bristol; H. Hunwick, Tunbridge; M. Judel, Amsterdam; J. Justican, London; W. G. Kirby, London; L. C. Krak, Amsterdam, R. Howard Krause, Vienna; A. Lawson, London; M. J. Lavallin, Cork; A. Le Son, Paris; Cav. C. M. Mazzini, Florence; A. Milne, Aberdeen; R. G. Moffett, Belfast; O. A. Nissen, Copenhagen; Sir Francis Osborne, Bart., London; A. V. Perrin, Brussels; G. Piestrasanta, Florence; R. Plochmann, Hamburg; A. W. G. Pritchard, Plymouth; R. Rankine, Cape Town; J. Reid, Manchester; R. W. Richards, Liverpool; J. J. Rooney, Sunderland; W. Roxburg, Edinburgh; W. Schreiber, Mannheim; J. Siberry, Dublin; G. S. Smith, London; A. C. Pharall Smith, London; C. W. Souter, Sheffield; W. F. Stratford, Norwich; S. Wertheimer, Nuremburg; C. H. Whittell, Ipswich.

The gentlemen whose names I have read to you have endorsed, by their own hand, the kindly sentiments expressed, and I am sure that those sentiments are shared by the staff equally with those who have had the pleasure of subscribing. When the idea of this testimonial was first mooted, it was received with the utmost enthusiasm and heartiness, and our difficulty has been to confine it within the scope of the original intention, viz., a testimony to Mr. Scott from the Field Forces of the Society—its first line of offence and defence. We all like to enjoy the esteem of our fellows—appreciation is the spice of life—and it must, I am sure, be a source of special gratification to Mr. Scott to know that he is loyally supported by organisers and producers, from whose ranks he has himself risen by conspicuous ability. The presentation, I am happy to say, includes Mrs. Scott, whom to know is to regard and respect, and whose goodness of heart and well known hospitality are pleasurably known to many of us. I am proud, Sir, to be the medium of conveying from the officers and branch managers these gifts to you; a silver salver, a silver tea and coffee service, a dining-room clock, a silver cigar box, and to Mrs. Scott a diamond bracelet.

Mr. Scott, who was loudly cheered, said: In thanking you on behalf of Mrs. Scott and myself, for this magnificent testimonial, I can hardly find words to express my gratification and thanks for the compliment you have so graciously paid me. What I have done to earn such an expression of goodwill and kindness on your part, I am at a loss to know, but it would be hypocrisy to pretend that I am none the less grateful for what is the most pleasant surprise which has ever befallen me. During the seven-and-a-half years that I

have occupied an official position with the Gresham I have strenuously labored, and not altogether in vain I hope, to promote the best interests of the Office, and of all concerned therein. Official duties sometimes run counter to the exercise of kindly personal feelings, and it is, therefore, doubly gratifying to me to find in this very handsome and spontaneous expression of your goodwill, the fullest proof that in prosecuting the one, I have not sacrificed the other. That such a state of affairs may continue in the future as far as the *Gresham* is concerned, is my earnest and heartfelt wish. In life assurance, perhaps more than in any other pursuit, harmony of action amongst all the officials is absolutely necessary to success. That I may take this valuable testimonial as an evidence of that harmony which should, and I am happy to state does, exist between us all, is, I am sure, your desire. As to the flattering statements in the address, and the eulogies of Mr. Lawson, I can only say that whether I deserve them or not I am equally thankful for such kindly expressions. I must also thank you on behalf of Mrs. Scott, for this beautiful diamond bracelet. Her encouragement and sympathy at all times have been most helpful, and have enabled me, over and over again, to cheerfully face those numerous difficulties, which every man has to contend with, who chooses to fight his own battle in the insurance world. In conclusion, I can only reiterate my thanks, individually, to those who have organized this, to me particularly pleasing event, and

assure all concerned therewith, that such an expression of goodwill as that of which I have been the recipient, will never fade from my memory, and tend largely to smooth any rugged paths which I may have to traverse in the future.

FOREIGN BUSINESS OF THE THREE GREAT AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Following its annual custom of making a somewhat thorough analysis of the foreign business of American life insurance companies, the *Insurance Age* has availed itself of the figures found only in the report of the Connecticut Insurance Department in compiling the following interesting table. The enterprise and ambition of the three giants has carried them to distant countries to seek additions to their business. They have thoroughly planted themselves in many of the foreign centres, have become real estate holders there, and have so vigorously pushed their business abroad that it constitutes quite a large percentage of their total business in force. Asia, Africa and Australasia are not too far away for their reach, and through them the gospel of life insurance is preached to the civilized population of the isles of the sea. From the complications occasioned by the harsh conditions imposed and rigidly enforced by the Prussian government, it seemed likely that the three great companies would show a falling off in their foreign business this year. The figures, however, show that they have held their own. The figures in detail are as follows:

Country.	Equitable Life.			New York Life.			Mutual Life.		
	Policies in force.	Foreign Insurance in force.	Premiums received.	Policies in force.	Foreign Insurance in force.	Premiums received.	Policies in force.	Foreign Insurance in force.	Premiums received.
		\$	\$		\$	\$		\$	\$
Europe.....	44,260	144,084,972	5,559,575	35,688	125,329,473	5,639,826	29,879	88,258,930	3,786,182
Asia.....	596	2,358,728	102,962	2,329	5,177,234	360,849			
Africa.....	3,333	10,064,110	319,710	410	2,140,056	91,303	1,204	3,780,188	126,791
Australasia.....	7,855	19,367,908	709,934	2,615	8,057,880	447,135	1,961	6,497,140	278,401
South America.....	10,022	52,257,670	1,642,896	14,530	7,450,539	362,788			
Central America.....	1,718	8,126,897	398,202	426	2,016,466	109,617	68	189,200	10,536
West Indies.....	2,609	11,781,855	429,150	2,324	79,004,021	3,750,201			
Mexico.....	3,877	10,164,291	445,087	1,129	3,052,661	144,633	7,012	11,813,462	644,638
Other c'nts and isl. ...	1,007	3,491,872	100,000	246	1,492,311	58,858	275	1,153,687	52,718
Totals, 1896.....	75,427	261,597,161	9,795,427	59,697	233,720,611	10,665,201	40,399	111,692,607	4,899,266
" 1895.....	74,098	260,631,010	9,215,370	59,511	237,487,923	11,073,554	33,953	96,605,557	4,418,235
" 1894.....	70,651	252,878,247	9,945,685	53,508	221,713,171	10,179,850	27,742	84,184,129	3,642,757
" 1893.....	64,593	239,311,894	9,252,473	54,403	211,334,680	8,087,287	19,506	61,349,565	2,784,271
" 1892.....	61,001	235,158,107	9,533,456	44,870	185,829,365	8640,818	14,318	47,430,265	2,192,273
" 1891.....	54,109	215,979,331	8,639,173	40,625	172,351,422	8,008,174	8,841	33,091,153	1,435,486
Gains, '96 over '95...	1,329	966,151	490,057	186	-3,767,282	-108,353	6,446	15,087,050	481,031

Estimated.

We also present the following summary:

	Jan. 1. Total in Force.	For. Countries.	Ratio.
Equitable.	1890.....\$631,016,666	\$192,866,753	30.56
	1891.....720,662,473	215,979,331	29.96
	1892.....804,894,557	235,158,107	29.21
	1893.....850,962,245	239,311,894	28.12
	1894.....932,532,577	254,878,247	27.11
	1895.....913,556,733	260,631,010	28.53
	1896.....912,509,553	261,597,161	28.56
New York.	Jan. 1. Total in Force.	For. Countries.	Ratio.
	1890.....\$495,601,970	\$148,028,361	29.89
	1891.....569,338,726	172,351,422	30.27
	1892.....614,824,713	185,829,365	30.22
	1893.....689,248,629	211,334,680	30.66
	1894.....779,156,678	221,713,171	28.47
	1895.....813,294,160	237,487,923	29.19
	1896.....799,027,329	233,720,641	29.25

	Jan. 1. Total in Force.	For. Countries.	Ratio.
Mutual.	1890.....\$565,839,387	\$21,385,092	3.78
	1891.....638,048,180	33,091,153	5.18
	1892.....695,753,461	47,450,264	6.82
	1893.....745,780,083	61,349,565	8.22
	1894.....802,867,478	84,814,129	10.56
	1895.....855,207,778	96,605,557	11.29
	1896.....898,458,857	111,692,607	12.43

These figures bring graphically before us the large interests of the companies in foreign countries. Their enterprise is in striking contrast to the methods of most of the native companies in those countries, which are naturally a little jealous of the success of their American rivals.

THE NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The eighty-sixth annual meeting of the above Company was held at Edinburgh on the 8th May. The business of the year in the Fire Department left a surplus in excess of the average in preceding four years. The premium income reached the large sum of \$7,392,000, after deducting re-insurances. This is \$190,000 more than the premium income in 1894, and the largest recorded in the history of this very substantial, and popular company. The losses, after deducting re-insurances, were \$4,364,850, a ratio of 59.05 of the premiums. Although a small percentage larger than the loss ratio of 1894, it is some 8 per cent. less than the average of those of 1891, '92 and '93, the latter year having gone as high as 72.5. It is very gratifying to find the business for Canada ranking up to the average of the Company's all over the world wide field. Out of the thirty-five fire insurance companies operating in Canada, the loss ratios of thirty-one exceeded those of the North British and Mercantile, the average of all the British companies being 71.55, and of the American companies 75.08. In regard also to expenses the North British conducted its business with a lower percentage of general expenses to premiums received than twenty-eight of the companies out of thirty-five. Its ratio of expenses to premiums received was 27.39 against an average for all the British companies of 28.50, and of the American companies of 30.37. The amount of risks taken in Canada during the year was \$39,118,545, the premiums on which were \$457,116. The Company appears to have been reducing its expenses in view of the loss ratios having increased in the last five years, an experience shared with all other fire insurance companies, the North British, however, having less to complain of in this respect than others. The total Assets of the company in Canada amount to \$5,564,200. The Fire Funds of the North British, including paid-up Capital, amount to \$15,027,300. The Reserve of the Fire Department is \$7,750,000, and the Premium Reserve \$2,956,000. The total funds of the North British at 31st December, 1895, after providing for dividend and bonus, and including fire, life and annuity funds, amount to the magnificent total of \$60,996,000. The total Assets owned by the Company are \$65,157,780. The Company is especially distinguished by having His Excellency the Governor General as one of its Directors, also, the Viceroy and Governor General of India. These, however, although an assurance to the public of the stability of the North British, would not ensure its prosperity; that can only result from skilful, energetic and careful management, in which respect the Company is in a highly favored position for continued success. In Canada the Company has the highest reputation for its honorable, liberal and prompt dealings with its policy-holders. Its eminent position and prestige are well upheld by its representative here, Mr. Thomas Davidson, Managing Director; Mr. Randall Davidson, Superintendent, as well as by Mr. McDonald, the Secretary, and other officials of this leading fire insurance Company.

FIRE LOSSES IN CANADA FOR MAY, 1896.

DATE, 1896.	LOCATION.	OCCUPATION.	TOTAL LOSS.	INSURANCE LOSS.
May 2	Toronto	Dwellings	\$6,000	\$ 5,000
" 4	London	Dw'ling & Barns	8,000	8,000
" 3	Brampton	Hall	1,000	1,000
" 4	Tsp. Chatham	Farm buildings	3,000	2,200
" 2	St. Catharines	Stables	1,500	nil.
" 5	Bass River, N.S.	Dwelling	5,000	3,000
" 4	Lindsay	Steamer	3,000	1,200
" 1	Tsp Tiyu	Cheese factory	1,500	1,100
" 7	Toronto	Warehouse	8,000	8,000
" 6	Stoney Point	Flour mill	6,000	2,300
" 2	Gananoque	Stores	3,000	2,500
" 5	Hamilton	Foundry	1,100	1,100
" 6	South Durham	Stores	4,000	4,000
" 8	Toronto	Bicycle rim fac'y	3,000	2,500
" 7	Bethany	Planing mill	2,000	nil.
" 8	Renfrew	Saw mill & st'chs	5,000	nil.
" 9	Tsp. Keppel	Shingle mill	1,500	nil.
" 11	Port Hope	Dwellings	3,000	2,000
" 11	Chambly Basin	Store	2,300	2,300
" 10	Petrolia	Store	4,000	3,600
" 11	Hawkesbury	Saw mills, (W.P.)	50,000	25,000
" 9	Warren	Saw mill	50,000	40,000
" 8	Katrine	Saw mill	56,000	43,000
" 8	Berthier	Dwelling	7,000	6,000
" 12	Wawauesca	Hotel	10,000	7,000
" 14	Montibello	Steamer	8,000	5,000
" 3	Hastings, B. C.	Shingle mill	20,000	5,100
" 14	Peterboro	F'r & oatm'l mls	50,000	56,000
" 17	Sarnia	F'r & oatm'l mls	75,000	20,000
" 17	St. Catharines	Steamer	2,000	2,000
" 17	Owen Sound	Dwelling	3,500	1,500
" 17	Stratford	Brick yard	3,000	nil.
" 9	Bethany	Dwelling	2,500	1,800
" 20	Pictou	Dwelling	4,500	3,000
" 20	Barrie	Flour mill	5,000	1,500
" 11	Winnipeg	Dwellings	20,000	12,500
" 22	Treherne	Elevator	12,000	12,000
" 25	Ottawa	Hotel	2,500	1,200
" 25	Parrsboro, N.S.	Clubhouse	1,500	1,000
" 22	L'Ange Gardien	Dwelling	3,000	2,400
" 23	Mechanicsville	Dwellings	6,000	4,000
" 25	D'Esronito	Conflagration	250,000	145,000
" 25	Hamilton Beach	Dwelling	5,000	2,800
" 26	Coaticooke	Carriage shop	2,000	1,900
" 25	Elora	Furniture factory	10,000	8,000
" 27	St. Hyacinthe	Tannery & dwlgs	30,000	13,000
" 25	Markham	Barns	1,500	1,000
" 28	Toronto	Store	2,000	2,000
" 28	Kingsville	Flour mill	22,000	6,000
" 29	Aylmer	Saw mill (S.P.)	8,000	3,000
" 28	Bodney	Barns	1,000	1,000
" 31	Toronto	Stores	2,000	2,000
" 29	Toronto	Stores	2,000	1,600
" 29	Fort William	Commerc'l block	3,000	2,500
" 29	Rapid City	Store	3,000	3,000
" 30	Belleville	Dwelling	1,000	1,000
" 31	Oshawa	Hotel	3,000	2,500
" 30	Dresden	Flour mill	1,800	1,800
" 25	Tsp. Floss	Farm buildings	1,000	1,000
" 25	Tsp. Innisfil	Farm buildings	1,500	1,000
" 27	Tsp. Bayham	Dwelling	1,000	1,000
Totals..			\$915,200	\$500,700
Add 20 percent. for unreported losses and losses under \$1000.			183,040	100,140
Totals.....			\$1,098,240	\$600,840

SUMMARY FOR FIVE MONTHS.

	1895.		1896.	
	Total Loss.	Ins. Loss.	Total Loss.	Ins. Loss.
For January	\$ 1,970,760	\$ 1,438,280	\$ 422,400	\$ 263,880
" February	1,543,320	100,920	378,480	288,720
" March	1,073,760	880,560	418,200	292,680
" April	823,800	246,960	693,840	408,000
" May	457,080	246,240	1,098,240	600,840
Totals.....	\$ 3,200,040	\$ 1,599,180	\$ 3,011,160	\$ 1,854,120

FIRE INSURANCE IN CANADA FOR THE YEAR 1895.

Compiled by THE INSURANCE AND FINANCE CHRONICLE, from the report of the Superintendent of Insurance.

CANADIAN COMPANIES.

	Net Cash received for Premiums.	Amount of Policies written.	Amount at Risk at date.	Net losses incurred.	Net losses paid.	Ratio of Losses Incurred to Premiums received.			
						1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
British America.....	\$ 276,294	\$ 34,975,337	\$ 25,928,904	\$ 170,487	\$ 172,857	61.70	71.70	68.35	75.54
Eastern.....	27,826	.....	None	30,231	64,481	108.64	96.22	72.71	71.33
London Mutual.....	184,519	19,382,378	49,424,545	128,495	117,940	69.64	71.59	91.23	75.20
Mercantile.....	153,985	13,824,438	17,792,621	113,847	125,110	73.79	67.41	66.80	86.43
Quebec.....	92,416	9,899,094	8,530,679	51,254	55,855	60.50	71.84	76.47	76.78
Western.....	418,863	49,808,405	41,845,503	265,430	272,888	63.00	64.14	68.31	70.07
Totals for 1895....	1,153,903	127,869,652	143,522,252	759,744	809,161	65.83	.....	.....	.....
Totals for 1894....	1,108,294	121,562,165	150,241,967	803,152	801,871	.....	72.61	.....	.....
Totals for 1893....	1,137,797	123,785,683	154,614,280	824,351	797,149	.....	.....	72.31	74.17

BRITISH COMPANIES.

Alliance.....	169,589	16,601,877	12,085,725	143,045	139,456	82.20	89.46	90.62	43.44
Atlas.....	1,828	10,880,071	11,983,151	75,681	71,814	59.00	61.09	78.60	55.13
Caledonian.....	157,169	15,000,930	18,930,872	95,599	93,696	60.82	61.25	80.95	54.71
Commercial Union... ..	373,555	34,230,570	43,224,614	248,613	298,272	66.50	66.80	79.42	80.85
Guardian.....	200,007	27,578,793	37,540,253	216,989	218,756	74.80	78.95	58.91	51.56
Imperial.....	186,812	17,134,559	23,915,187	115,228	109,880	61.63	56.54	81.43	51.12
Lancashire.....	278,705	23,669,855	32,405,998	218,887	223,166	78.54	62.53	73.28	62.53
L'pool & Lon. & Globe..	353,816	32,284,115	49,990,298	241,039	249,608	65.26	62.04	81.48	66.57
London & Lancashire... ..	181,436	15,003,656	20,012,007	163,049	162,376	89.00	20.22	48.69	53.46
London Assurance.....	118,599	13,872,272	16,929,469	111,203	169,385	94.45	66.36	68.68	52.13
Manchester Fire.....	171,291	16,034,436	20,177,660	139,897	155,536	81.70	79.22	100.28	56.56
National of Ireland.....	128,282	10,880,071	11,983,151	75,681	71,814	59.14	61.16	79.25	60.86
North British.....	392,621	39,118,545	53,682,467	234,117	238,772	59.71	57.11	87.30	64.26
Northern.....	179,946	17,280,977	21,637,482	153,039	156,392	85.00	64.54	78.23	55.13
Norwich Union.....	184,138	16,817,469	21,655,795	114,687	131,091	62.46	88.31	76.95	67.20
Phoenix of London.....	304,805	26,327,144	34,139,568	154,711	149,890	50.81	60.86	61.99	56.00
Royal.....	605,357	55,887,125	84,676,408	471,465	462,398	77.80	72.10	76.54	65.82
Scottish Union & Nati'l..	144,043	15,293,482	14,162,006	118,942	124,046	82.69	74.27	74.54	73.88
Sun Fire.....	164,509	14,197,920	15,442,780	116,664	116,304	70.80	60.14	63.70	26.26
Union Assurance.....	278,582	27,253,408	20,808,911	122,994	127,577	44.00	75.54	73.13	49.93
United Fire.....	18,027	468,927	None	17,727	28,994	94.00	.....	90.88	116.28
Totals for 1895....	4,808,971	445,816,220	565,683,862	3,349,257	3,439,223	69.65	.....	.....	.....
Totals for 1894....	4,602,747	435,237,770	567,948,304	3,118,659	3,091,861	.....	67.75	.....	.....
Totals for 1893....	4,623,196	458,254,364	563,944,318	3,539,749	3,496,102	.....	.....	77.41	63.30

AMERICAN COMPANIES.

Etna Fire.....	137,268	14,424,298	15,359,727	101,200	107,468	73.70	54.07	61.54	78.28
Agl., of Watertown.....	35,188	6,692,500	10,897,910	41,593	42,230	118.00	112.11	97.46	80.60
Connecticut, Fire.....	38,633	4,050,000	4,245,000	32,586	29,468	85.40	49.14	72.05	35.73
Hartford.....	156,537	17,590,625	18,908,810	108,027	118,373	70.00	71.32	70.57	53.51
Ins. Co. of N. America..	89,192	9,692,548	8,888,697	62,446	58,691	70.00	72.89	61.67	61.17
Phoenix, of Brooklyn....	98,369	7,896,010	11,682,459	79,524	85,255	80.80	68.09	77.38	79.82
Phoenix, of Hartford....	197,867	14,579,974	18,316,152	130,000	140,935	65.50	77.71	75.66	79.46
Queen, of America.....	270,997	24,010,197	29,679,499	197,304	188,712	72.80	63.23	63.59	73.72
Totals for 1895....	1,024,051	98,936,452	117,978,254	753,080	771,132	73.54	.....	.....	.....
Totals for 1894....	1,000,328	96,789,493	117,876,931	688,610	692,631	.....	68.84	.....	.....
Totals for 1893....	1,032,602	105,564,192	117,876,931	768,214	759,429	.....	.....	69.78	71.68

RECAPITULATION.

6 Canadian Companies..	1,153,903	127,869,652	143,522,252	759,744	809,161	65.83	72.61	72.31	74.17
21 British Companies....	4,808,971	445,816,220	565,683,862	3,349,257	3,439,223	69.65	67.75	77.41	63.30
8 American Companies..	1,024,051	98,936,452	117,978,254	753,080	771,132	73.54	68.84	69.78	71.68
Total for 1895....	6,986,925	672,622,324	841,184,368	4,861,082	5,019,516	69.73	.....	.....	.....
Total for 1894....	6,711,369	653,589,428	836,572,202	4,610,421	4,589,363	.....	68.72	.....	.....
Totals for 1893....	6,793,595	687,604,239	841,687,057	5,132,314	5,052,690	.....	.....	75.39	66.22

THE STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The annual Report of the above Company will be found on a later page. The statement affords striking evidence of that increasing vitality and progressive strength for which the Standard "has a splendid name throughout the world." Although its title refers to the emblem of British prowess and sovereignty, it might well be taken in the sense of being a standard up to which the business of life assurance generally should be brought, in order to ensure absolute safety to policyholders, with as favorable conditions as are consistent with the standard of stability.

The Company in 1895 received proposals for \$11,432,000, of which it accepted \$9,717,000, by which its annual premium income was increased \$388,750. The total assurances at end of year were \$114,438,000. From 1880 to 1890 the average amount of policies issued was \$6,821,500, from 1890 to 1895 the average increased to \$8,956,000, last year exceeding the average from 1890 to 1894 by about one million dollars, the largest advance ever made by the Standard in one year. The invested funds were enlarged last year by \$300,580, the funds at the close of 1895 being \$39,891,600. Although money has been falling in value the Company has maintained the rate of interest on its investments for some years, this satisfactory feature being to no small extent owing to its large and excellent investments in Canada. The balance of funds after deducting vested liabilities was \$38,891,000, the liability under the Company's life assurance and annuity transactions \$36,700,000, leaving a balance of Assets over Liabilities of \$2,191,000. In addition to \$176,945 already paid as an intermediate bonus, the large sum of \$2,144,700 is to be divided amongst the policy-holders.

The amount of bonus is somewhat less than would have been the case had not the Directors decided to take advantage of the Company's finances being in so favorable position to bring its Indian investments down to a valuation required by the present low value of the Rupee. This coin for many centuries has been the currency standard of India, having a nominal value of one-tenth of an English sovereign. Its value is now only one-seventeenth. India has always had exports of goods about double the value of its imports. There has been a perpetual flow into the country of silver which does not flow back, but is absorbed largely for the purposes of barbaric adornment and hoarding. In Kashmir, for instance, the Rajah's palace has pillars of solid silver. This absorption of silver has its limits, though pamphlets are afloat which make the Indian silver question, which is very simple, the most inscrutable of problems. The Rupee has fallen in value because India has been over-supplied with silver. As all its securities are payable in that metal, by so many Rupees, they of course, have declined in value as silver has done. The Company has put down its Indian securities to a gold basis, at a rate which, we believe, will prove profitable in the future. Profits made in India, made in part by these securities, have been large; they have been distributed by the Standard all over the world, as its great profits in that field in the future

will be spread. Having shared in those profits there is only equity in the amount written off in India being also shared by all its policy holders. It is a temporary, ephemeral, disappointment to some who anticipated a larger quinquennial bonus, but this is fully compensated for by the assurance it gives of the Assets of the Standard being safeguarded against depreciation. The Canadian business flourishes under the sagacious and highly popular management of Mr. W. M. Ramsay, whose energetic services and sound judgment are fully appreciated at home, as they are by all connections of the Standard in the Dominion. Mr. J. Hutton Balfour, the Superintendent, by ability and zeal adds much to the efficiency of the Company's staff in Canada, a staff, we may say, as devoted to the Standard as a soldier is to that of his company.

So far as this Dominion is concerned, the Standard Life has claims to be considered a Canadian Company, so closely has it become identified with our home interests. Not only has every cent received here, over and above its payments, been invested in our home securities, but the funds of the Head Office have been drawn upon for investments until the amount of the Assets owned by the Standard in Canada is now the enormous sum of \$12,500,000. A Company which has shown such confidence in Canada, and has done so much towards establishing the credit of this Dominion, certainly has a very strong claim upon Canadians.

REBATING AND THE REBATER.

Written for the THE INSURANCE AND FINANCE CHRONICLE, by WM. T. STANDEN, Actuary.

IV.

It ought now to be perfectly self-evident that the good faith of the agent is intimately involved in every application that he sends to his company; and that the large commission paid to him on the assumption of his securing risks of average persistency, is really tantamount to obtaining money under false pretences, if the business turned over by him to his company is obtained as the result of a resort to methods of questionable expediency, involving the probability of a low average of persistency, and unquestionably detrimental to the moral character of the business.

It is scarcely likely that a reputable life insurance man who has had any experience in the business would, for one moment, maintain that business obtained by the rebating process is of anything like the same degree of persistency as other business obtained by more legitimate methods, and on which the premiums are paid in full with neither the offer nor the expectation of rebate, discount or abatement, but he will readily agree that to precisely the extent to which the business is deficient in persistency, the company is victimized and compelled to pay in excess of what it is really worth from a business standpoint.

The talk that we hear so much about, that an agent is entitled to do just whatever he pleases with that which he earns, is simply bosh and clap-trap—a very cheap way of making an apparent justification for the

actions of a dishonourable man who knows he is taking a mean advantage of the company that trusts him. The large compensation is paid to him on the understanding that he will perform certain services in a certain legitimate manner, and the amount of this compensation is determined and so paid to him, because, if he performs the services he is hired to perform in a legitimate manner, there may be a resultant profit to the company that would justify the outlay. Just as soon as the probable future profit of the business is affected, it becomes (to the company) a very intimate concern indeed what an agent does with the commission paid to him. He may choose to so use it as to defeat the express purpose for which the company is induced to allow it; and surely no sane man would assail his own intelligence by maintaining that such a course should be permissible.

The compensation for the agent's labor assumes that that labor will be performed in a certain approved and legitimate manner, satisfactory to the company; and if it is performed in any other manner, unsatisfactory to the company (whether the company obtains immediate evidence of that unsatisfactoriness or not) it is surely apparent that trick and evasion are resorted to, and the good faith of the agent is cast to the winds.

In my judgment, nothing can be falser than the assertion that it is no one's business what the agent does with the money paid to him. The assertion might perhaps hold good, if the agreement by virtue of which the payments are made to the agent did not imply good faith on both sides, to be demonstrated by the agent in the honest and upright performance of his duty along certain lines, and in conformity with certain principles and business usages prescribed by the company. Just as soon as the line upon which that duty is performed strikes into the region of looseness and unbusiness-like methods, the good faith exhibited by the company is met with bad faith on the part of the agent, and it becomes a matter of vital moment to the company what the agent does with the money paid to him. If he uses it in a direction which concededly results detrimentally to the quality of the business, he is victimizing the company, and no ingenious play of words can possibly excuse him, or turn into good faith the bad faith which he has given abundant evidence of.

If the company is governed on honest lines and observes prudent business methods in its conduct, it would not be willing to allow the high commission rate ordinarily paid on annual and limited payment policies, if it entertained the slightest idea that the lapsing of the business at the end of the first year was a foregone conclusion. Even if it was willing to accept such business under any circumstances whatever, it would act on the theory that it was simply purchasing short term, single premium business, and would only pay the commission that it would be willing to pay on single premium insurances. Therefore to the extent that the ordinary commission rate exceeds the single premium commission rate, to precisely that extent does the agent victimize the company, if while the company is expecting that it is purchasing continuous or limited annuity

payments to be made to it by the applicant, it is only securing one payment without any renewals to follow it.

Of course life agents who are very new to the business may not have a very clear idea of the subject, and may possibly be excused for not seeing it in this light, or for not recognizing the enormity of the offense they commit when they deliberately bid for non-persistent business; but it matters not whether the agent fully realizes the whole force of the technical considerations here brought forward, he certainly cannot clear himself from blame. He must know, if he boasts of any degree of common sense whatever, that the large commission allowed him on the first premium, taken deliberately into view the probability of the receipt by the company of the renewal premiums as they fall due. We hear talked a good deal of nonsense as to rebating being a trade discount, or the discount allowed for large sales, and kindred rubbish. While the agent sells insurance, the life insurance policy (it must be quite evident to any man) is essentially different from any ordinary manufactured commodity, or any product for the large sales of which discounts are offered. Life insurance is not a commodity in this sense, it is something distinctly different, and every intelligent agent knows it just as well as we do. A life insurance policy cannot be justly regarded as merchandise or as a species of actual property attaching to and belonging to a life company, and which it is the purpose of that company to sell, in the same sense as you regard a horse as belonging to you, or a house as belonging to your wife, or any other kind of tangible property usually offered for barter or sale. The life policy is not a property in that sense. It is a legal contract—an agreement—the mere visible evidence of an arrangement of assumed mutual advantage pertaining to the parties interested therein.

An analysis of life insurance premiums and the functions that the various portions of it are assumed to perform, would clearly demonstrate this fact, but we do not think that it is necessary to take up the time and space that we would have to give to such arguments if we entered into their consideration exhaustively.

I must, however, refer to some considerations growing out of such an analysis, and will do so as briefly as possible.

The premiums charged by life insurance companies are made to cover the net cost of the benefits contemplated in the policy, together with a provision for the expense to be incurred in securing, manipulating and conducting the business. All participating policies have an interest in the conservative government of these expenses. If an agent gives away his commission, it is quite certain that he is overpaid to that extent. The fact that he persistently rebates, constitutes a practical admission on his own part that he is an overpaid man, and this over-payment has to be taken out of the accrued surplus of the company that really (within certain well-defined limitations) belongs to existing participating policy-holders.

Furthermore, it seems to me that the rebating agent

makes the company the victim of methods which the company adopts merely for the sake of convenience. An agent is a paid employee of the company,—whether he is paid by commission or salary has no particular bearing upon the question. He is paid to secure applications for life insurance; to deliver the policies resulting therefrom; if such policies be issued, to collect the premiums called for by them, and to faithfully transmit the money to his company. After the policy is issued and delivered, the agent should collect the premium and pay it over to his company in full, according to the pure theory of the business. Thereafter his compensation—whether in the form of commission or salary—should be paid to him; and if he be allowed, instead of remitting the full premium to the company, to first deduct therefrom the compensation which it is arranged that he shall receive, such prior deduction is a mere expedient, to secure a more convenient conduct of the business. Nevertheless, it does not require a very great deal of sagacity to see that if this convenient expedient had never been adopted, but that in place thereof the companies had invariably required a settlement in full by all their agents, and at some specified time thereafter had paid them the pre-arranged compensation for their services, rebating would not have become as rampant an evil as it now is.

The amount of rebate allowed by an agent being evidently the measure of his over-payment is an injustice to every participating policy-holder in a life company. It is a discrimination in favor of the man who receives the rebate, as against every other policy-holder, and as against every new policy-holder who does not enjoy a rebate, and is therefore manifestly inequitable and unjust, and the proper subject for statutory interference. It is a crying evil of such magnitude, that if any company, in the face of more enlightened opinion dares to countenance it, it simply invites the interposition of the law in order to bring about a condition under which the policy-holders will be treated alike, and with absolute fairness and impartiality.

THE SUN (FIRE) INSURANCE OFFICE.

The statement of the Sun shows excellent results for the operations of 1895. The pruning policy pursued in 1894 was continued so thoroughly as to have reduced the total of the sums insured during the year, after deducting the amounts re-insured, below the figures of previous year by \$14,247,000. This will give an impressive idea of the total sum insured by the Sun during the year, which was \$1,953,388,500, an amount close upon two thousand millions of dollars, so that the reduction last year of 14 millions shrinks into the mere bagatelle of 73 parts of one per cent. The premiums received, less re-insurances, amounted to \$4,897,000, an increase of \$974,480 over 1894. It would seem then that the risks taken, though less in volume, were on more favorable terms, having increased while the gross amount of the business had been pruned down, just as a vine yields more fruit in consequence of a large amount of it having been cut off. The losses paid and outstanding

amount to \$2,732,000, which is 55.80 on the net premiums received, which is sufficiently low to leave a large margin for profits. A consideration of the enormous reserve funds and capital resources of institutions like the Sun Fire, by those to whom schemes of local insurance are so dangerously attractive, would be a powerful object lesson as to the incomparable stability of an insurance company having a very wide field of operations over one in a limited area. A conflagration with losses that would hopelessly ruin any municipal scheme, if all the risks had been in the Sun, would be only a disagreeable incident. After providing for the usual reserve of 40 per cent. of the premiums to cover liabilities under current policies, a balance of \$837,580 was left for transference to profit and loss. The funds at close of 1895 stood as follows:—Capital paid up, \$600,000; general reserve, \$5,750,000; reserve for risks not yet expired, \$1,958,780; investment reserve, \$121,250; dividend reserve, \$250,000; and balance in profit and loss account, \$536,220, the reserve having increased since 1894 by \$400,000, being so large as to put the institution in a position of strength such as could not be shaken by any calamity within the range of experience. The Canadian business yielded net cash for premiums in 1895 of \$164,509, the losses incurred amounted to \$118,942. The net amount at risk at close of 1895 was \$15,442,780, which is an advance of \$3,421,493 upon the total of 1894. The expenses of the Canada business are being kept at a moderate figure, the total expenditure per cent. of premiums being 3 per cent. below some of the larger companies. In this respect, as in watching over and furthering the interests of the Sun Fire office in Canada, Mr. H. M. Blackburn is showing himself a zealous, skilful and valuable representative.

THE LATE MR. E. D. LACY.

Mr. Edgar D. Lacy, resident Canadian Manager of the Imperial Fire Insurance Company, was a prominent and successful underwriter, who will be much missed in insurance circles. The Imperial prospered under his management since he entered its service in 1883. He induced the company to purchase and re-construct the building on St. James St., to which he gave the title, "Imperial Building." Mr. Lacy's death was very sudden; he was preparing to go down to his office as usual, when the summons came for his departure hence to another sphere. Our condolences are tendered sympathetically to his bereaved family. The following testimony to Mr. Lacy's popularity with his colleagues is taken from an *In Memoriam* circular signed, G. R. Kearley, Sub-Manager: "The cablegram from the General Manager, expressing extreme sorrow; the resolution passed by the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association, speaking of their 'desire to express our admiration of his ability as an underwriter, and of his many kindly social qualities, and we further testify to his great usefulness in the past to this Association,' and the personal loss felt by the office staff, all point to the esteem and regard in which our late chief was held. His unswerving allegiance to correct principles and methods in the conduct of the business, has left its mark for good on the fire insurance business of Canada. You will share with us in the feeling of loss sustained, and those who know him personally will join in the expression of deep sympathy for the bereaved wife and daughter."

STOCK LIST

Reported for THE CHRONICLE by J. TRY-DAVIES, 23 St. John St., Montreal.

BANKS.	Capital subscribed	Capital paid up.	Rest or Reserve Fund.	Percentage of Rest to paid up Capital.	Par value of one share.	Market value of one share.	Dividend for last half year.	Revenue per cent. on Investment at present prices.	Closing prices (per cent. on par.)	When Dividend payable.
	\$	\$	\$		\$		Per cent.	\$ c.		
British Columbia	2,930,000	2,220,000	1,113,000	39.17	100	125 00	1	6 40	125	.....
British North America	4,866,000	4,866,000	1,318,344	27.50	24 1/2	257 00	2	3 70	109	April
Canadian Bank of Commerce	6,000,000	6,000,000	1,200,000	20 00	50	67 80	3 1/2	5 18	124	125 June
Commercial Bank, Windsor, N.S.	500,000	500,000	100,000	20 00	40	13 00	3	5 45	110	115
Dominion	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	100 00	50	118 00	3 1/2	5 04	240	242 May
Eastern Townships	1,500,000	1,500,000	720,000	48 00	50	70 00	3 1/2	4 83	135	148 January
Halifax Banking Co	500,000	500,000	300,000	60 00	20	27 63	3 1/2	5 01	138	142
Hamilton	1,250,000	1,250,000	675,000	54 00	100	151 00	4	5 26	153	154 June
Hochelaga	800,000	800,000	320,000	40 00	100	.....	4	6 00	120	124 March
Imperial	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,150,000	95 83	100	182 50	4	4 26	183 1/2	184 1/2
La Banque Jacques Cartier	500,000	500,000	250,000	50 00	25	21 00	3 1/2	7 00	90	90
La Banque Nationale	1,200,000	1,200,000	.....	None	20	.....	4	.....	70	75 May
Merchants Bank of Canada	6,000,000	6,000,000	3,000,000	50 00	10	164 00	4	4 82	163 1/2	167 June
Merchants Bank of Halifax	1,500,000	1,500,000	975,000	65 00	100	161 00	3 1/2	4 35	160	164 February
Molsons	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,375,000	68 75	50	86 50	5	5 74	178	185 April
Montreal	12,000,000	12,000,000	6,000,000	50 00	200	436 00	5	4 58	219	221 June
New Brunswick	500,000	500,000	500,000	100 00	100	253 00	6	4 74	257	257
Nova Scotia	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,075,000	107 50	100	188 00	4	4 25	188	192
Ontario	1,500,000	1,500,000	40,000	2 67	100	81 00	2 1/2	6 00	56 1/2	60 June
Ottawa	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,000,000	66 67	100	180 00	4	4 44	180	182 June
People's Bank of Halifax	700,000	700,000	175,000	25 00	2 1/2	.....	3	4 76	.....	126
People's Bank of N.B.	180,000	180,000	120,000	66 67	150	.....	4	.....	.....	.....
Quebec	2,500,000	2,500,000	500,000	20 00	100	115 00	2 1/2	4 35	117	118 June
Standard	1,000,000	1,000,000	600,000	60 00	50	80 00	4	4 95	163	165 April
Toronto	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,800,000	90 00	100	231 00	5 1/2	4 17	231	243 June
Traders	700,000	700,000	87,000	12 43	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Union Bank of Halifax	500,000	500,000	185,000	37 00	50	61 50	3	4 88	123	126 March
Union Bank of Canada	1,200,000	1,200,000	280,000	23 33	60	78 20	3	6 00	100	100 1/2 February
Ville Marie	500,000	479,629	100,000	20 08	100	35 00	3	6 00	75	.....
Western	500,000	375,571	100,000	26 62	100	.....	3	.....	.....	.....
Yarmouth	500,000	300,000	70,000	14 00	75	88 12	3 1/2	5 13	117	120
LOAN COMPANIES.										
Agricultural Savings & Loan Co.	630,000	626,742	130,000	22 79	50	51 00	3	5 10	108	.....
Brit. Can. L. & Inv. Co. Ltd.	1,337,500	398,500	120,000	20 11	100	.....	3 1/2	6 21	.....	112 Jan.
British Mortgage Loan Co	450,000	344,765	81,000	24 67	100	.....	3 1/2	.....	.....	.....
Building & Loan Association	750,000	750,000	112,000	14 93	25	.....	2 1/2	6 67	.....	75 Jan.
Canada Perm. Loan & Savings Co.	5,000,000	2,000,000	1,470,000	55 77	50	72 00	4	5 56	140	145 Jan.
Canadian Savings & Loan Co.	750,000	722,000	185,000	24 67	50	55 00	3	5 45	109	.....
Can. Landed & Nat'l Inv't Co., Ltd.	2,000,000	1,001,000	350,000	34 86	100	107 00	3	5 60	107	109 Jan.
Central Can. Loan & Savings Co.	2,500,000	1,250,000	325,000	26 00	100	119 00	1 1/2	5 04	119	121 Jan.
Dominion Sav. & Inv. Society	1,000,000	942,206	10,000	1 07	50	39 50	3	6 41	76	79 July
Freehold Loan & Savings Co	3,223,500	1,319,100	659,550	50 00	100	109 00	3	5 50	109	112 June
Farmers Loan & Savings Co	1,077,250	611,450	162,479	26 73	50	.....	3	5 82	.....	100 May
Huron & Erie Loan & Savings Co.	3,000,000	1,409,000	709,000	50 00	50	83 50	4 1/2	5 39	167	.....
Hamilton Provident & Loan Soc	1,500,000	1,100,000	336,027	30 55	100	.....	3 1/2	5 83	.....	118 Jan.
Imp. Can. Landed & Inv't Co., Ltd	810,000	716,000	160,000	22 35	100	107 50	3 1/2	6 56	103	108 Jan.
Landed Banking & Loan Co	700,000	674,381	155,000	22 58	100	115 00	3	5 31	113	.....
London Loan Co. of Canada	679,000	659,050	74,000	11 25	50	51 00	3	6 87	102	.....
London & Ont. Inv. Co., Ltd.	2,750,000	550,000	100,000	29 00	100	.....	3	5 45	.....	110 Jan.
Lon. & Can. L. & Ag. Co., Ltd.	5,000,000	700,000	410,000	58 57	50	110 00	4	7 27	.....	98 Jan.
Land Security Co. (Ont. Legisla.)	1,382,500	548,498	450,000	82 04	100	.....	3	6 00	.....	100 March
Man. & N.-West L. Co.	1,500,000	375,000	111,000	29 60	100	109 50	3 1/2	5 82	105	.....
Montreal Loan & Mortgage Co	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 1/2	5 28	125	132 July
Ontario Loan & Deb. Co., London.	2,000,000	1,200,000	450,000	37 50	50	62 25	3 1/2	5 62	124	126 1/2 Jan.
Ontario Loan & Savings Co., Oshawa	300,000	300,000	75,000	25 00	50	62 13	3	4 83	124	124 1/2 Jan.
Ontario Industrial Loan & Inv. Co	426,800	311,886	120,000	47 72	100	124 50	3	4 83	124 1/2	.....
People's Loan & Deposit Co.	600,000	600,000	115,000	19 17	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	40 Jan.
Union Loan & Savings Co	1,000,000	602,020	200,000	28 61	50	.....	3	5 15	.....	110 Jan.
Western Canada Loan & Savings Co.	3,000,000	1,500,000	770,000	51 33	50	72 00	4	5 53	144	150 Jan.
MISCELLANEOUS.										
Bell Telephone	3,168,000	3,618,000	809,000	23 1/2	100	.....	4	5 13	154	156
do New Bonds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	107
Canada Col. C. & Mills Co	2,700,000	2,700,000	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	.....	50	60
Don. Cot. Mills	2,000,000	2,000,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	90	100
Montreal Telegraph	2,000,000	2,000,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	4 91	164	167
Montreal Gas Co	3,000,000	2,438,000	.....	.....	40	.....	6	6 00	188	188
Montreal Street Railway	4,000,000	1,830,000	.....	.....	40	.....	4	3 70	200	200 1/2
do Bonded Debt	1,000,000	.....	600,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Montreal Cotton Co	1,400,000	1,400,000	.....	.....	33 1/2	.....	4	6 25	134	130
Richelleu & Ont. Nav. Co	1,350,000	1,350,000	250,000	18 1/2	50	.....	3	6 00	85	90
Toronto Street Railway	6,000,000	6,000,000	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	67 1/2	68 Jan.
do Bonded Debt	2,800,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Canadian Pacific	65,000,000	65,000,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1 30	61 1/2	62 1/2 April
Duluth S.S. & Atlantic	12,000,000	12,000,000	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	.....	5 1/2	6
do Pref	10,000,000	10,000,000	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	.....	10	114
Commercial Cable	14,000,000	19,000,000	.....	.....	100	.....	3 1/2	4 42	157 1/2	160 1/2 Quarterly
Postal Telegraph	15,000,000	15,000,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	87 1/2	86
Royal Electric	1,250,000	1,250,000	.....	.....	100	.....	4	6 15	110	125 Quarterly
North-West Land, Com	1,475,000	1,475,000	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
do Pref	500,000	500,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40	70
Diamond Glass Co	500,000	500,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	9 60	125	148 Jan.
Intercolonial Coal Co	500,000	500,000	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	.....	50	50
do Preferred	250,000	219,700	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	.....	50	70 Jan.
Canada Central	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100	115

* Quarterly.

The Election excitement here and in the States, has brought business on 'Change to a standstill. The Banks are reporting small profits, as prices of their stock are declining. Money is easier, but the supply is not large, the demand, however, is light.

THE BANK OF COMMERCE.

We much regret that our day of publication being two days before the annual meeting of the Bank of Commerce compels us to delay issuing the Directors' Report of this institution with the address that will, no doubt, be delivered by Mr. R. E. Walker, the General Manager, which is looked forward to with the greatest interest every year. By the circular issued prior to the meeting we learn that the net profits of the year were \$466,623, a large sum to be made when business was so depressed, money difficult to place profitably with safety, and all the conditions of business unfavorable to bankers.

The Bank of Commerce, like some other of its neighbors, is finding that, for a bank, there is such a thing as an embarrassment of riches. It stands so deservedly high in public confidence as to attract deposits on a very large scale, having of these funds, those not bearing interest \$3,343,744, and those bearing interest \$14,868,674, a total of \$18,212,418. The larger part of this immense sum, together with the Capital and Rest, it has to employ in active loans. When business is depressed, there is not only a smaller demand for loans, but extra caution has to be observed in making them; indeed it is impossible under such conditions as have prevailed since 1893, which were largely caused by the disturbed finances of the States, for bankers to do business without unusual losses. In our next issue the Bank of Commerce Report will appear in full, and will probably secure more attention after the Election than it would at present.

THE BANK OF MONTREAL REPORT.

The report of the Bank of Montreal, presented at the meeting on 1st inst., was much more satisfactory than could have been reasonably anticipated. The net profits were \$1,241,196, which provided sufficient for the two semi-annual dividends of five per cent., leaving \$41,196 to carry to credit of Profit and Loss, the balance of which stands at \$856,348, which is a very strong bulwark to protect the Reserve Fund from being encroached upon to cover any losses. Although a Reserve Fund, and a Contingent Fund, or balance in Profit and Loss Account, are practically identical in character and purpose, each being made up of undistributed profits, and each equally intended to provide for meeting contingencies without any appeal to the stockholders, still there is a distinction of a conventional nature. Shareholders look upon the utilization of the Reserve Fund for its proper purpose with an anxiety which they do not feel when the Contingent Account, or Profit and Loss balance is reduced. It is therefore a wise policy, we submit, to keep up a good sum in Profit and Loss, to draw upon when the losses in any year have been over the average. The meeting was presided over by the Hon. Senator Drummond, vice-president, Sir Donald A. Smith being in England attending to his duties as High Commissioner. Mr. Drummond gave a very thoughtful address on the business of the past year, its present condition and future prospects. He spoke frankly of the serious

danger of a prolonged strain of depression as weakening the power of resistance, the consequences of which have been so many failures in the past year. Depression is like a fusillade which is aimed higher and higher at each round, until the range becomes high enough to damage even stalwart firms. Against this dark feature he placed the receipts from the enormous wheat harvest in Manitoba, and that of hay in this Province. The north-western crops of wheat were stated to be about 33 millions of bushels, of other grains 31 millions, while the exports of cattle were 40,800, sheep 13,036, hogs 4,022, horses 235. The aggregate value of these must have been twenty-six millions of dollars, one effect of such a harvest being the clearing away of all interest arrears and those also of instalments on mortgages. The brightest feature in Mr. Drummond's address was his statement that the exports of the country up to 1st May were \$5,657,922 in excess of those at same date in 1895, and of imports the increase in same period was \$4,706,110, making for 10 months of current fiscal year an increase of \$10,359,032 in our foreign trade. The C. P. R. since January has increased its receipts by \$1,158,000, and the G. T. R. by \$40,000 over the returns for same months in 1895. Senator Drummond made a slashing attack on the advocates of free silver, who "show a preference for discharging their obligations with a fifty-cent silver dollar". We have remarks upon this in another column. The Vice-President of the Bank of Montreal is probably as reliable a judge in such matters as could be named, his opportunities for observation being exceptionally great, and his sense of responsibility, speaking from such a chair at an annual meeting of our leading bank, being a restraint upon any mere private or prejudiced opinions. Mr. Drummond said: "Canada has survived without serious scathe an unexampled reign of distrust and low prices over all civilized countries, and our resources are comparatively unimpaired. The savings of the laboring classes go on accumulating. With more settled political conditions we may confidently look for prosperity returning." That judgment admits of no appeal.

Mr. E. S. Clouston, the general manager, followed with some remarks upon the disastrous panic caused by the Venezuelan incident, which he said was, "one of the worst panics, if not the worst of the century, and not only in the United States but in Canada also, ruin apparently stared every one in the face." To that panic Mr. Clouston attributes numerous failures amongst merchants and manufacturers. He thought signs of improvement were not wanting, but so long as the financial affairs of the States remained unsettled, unrest and anxiety must prevail. He spoke very hopefully of the mining development in store for British Columbia, and of the prospects of Manitoba and the North-West. The coming year Mr. Clouston thinks will be one of small profits for bankers. The shareholders present were gratified at the report, and on the whole, the hopeful and confident tone of the address by the Vice-President, who so very ably, and so acceptably filled the chair.

THE MERCHANTS BANK.

As the annual meeting of the Merchants Bank will be held two days after this issue is due we must postpone a review of the Report and of the annual address of Mr. George Hague, the General Manager, whose comments on the course of the past year's business always command the greatest attention and respect. The Bank made net profits last year of \$501,959, which provides for the two dividends of 4 per cent. each, and leaves \$21,999 to carry on to credit of Profit and Loss.

The business is reported to have increased in volume during the past year, but the net profits are smaller owing to conditions for which severe competition is mainly responsible. The deposits bearing interest have increased from \$8,157,448 in 1895 to \$8,664,944, and the Loans and Discounts from \$16,643,438 to \$18,022,604. Having cleared the dividend at rate of 8 per cent. per annum, and raised the Contingent Account from \$74,215 to \$95,095, out of last year's profits, we consider the Merchants Bank to have much ground for satisfaction.

SENATOR DRUMMOND'S SUGGESTION.

At the annual meeting of the Bank of Montreal on 1st inst., the Hon. George A. Drummond, Vice-President, delivered an excellent address, in the course of which he alluded to the mischievous influence being exercised over financial affairs by the agitation for free silver. The market ratio of value of gold and silver is now 1 to 31, and it is proposed to fix it by law as, 1 to 16. That is 31 ounces of silver are now required in order to buy one ounce of gold, and the silver party would make an ounce of gold purchaseable for only 16 ounces of silver. The practical effect would be "repudiation," as Senator Drummond declared. Under such a system of currency there would inevitably come a gradual exodus of gold from the country, and its price would run so high as to seriously disturb all financial business. Indeed we are convinced that a very short trial would rouse such an agitation against the price of silver being fixed by law at nearly double its market value, that the currency would be restored to a more rational basis. England was nearly thrown into revolution by a debased currency, the irritation of which became unbearable. Senator Drummond foresees as a result of gold being made purchaseable at half its market value, that the amount of gold put into the five and ten dollar coins would be reduced; they would be debased to match the degraded silver. We think he has reason on his side in this view. He says this view is a "heresy," but when orthodoxy violates common sense, and ignores experience, then heresy is preferable. If gold were kept in the country its unnatural depreciation in comparison with silver would suggest a coinage to make the ratio more rational, which could only be done by coining dollars out of 50 cents worth of gold. The whole currency would then be equally rotten, and the whole theory of the silver agitators be demonstrated to be, what reason now proves it to be, a delusion and a snare.

The Senator would have all contracts payable in gold so drawn as to stipulate the weight of gold to be

paid, not merely the nominal amount in dollars, but in dollars of a certain standard weight of gold and fineness. Otherwise, depreciated gold dollar coins could be paid for their nominal value, and frauds on a gigantic scale might be perpetrated, and "might be," we fear, means, certainly "would be." The language constantly used by even some United States prominent politicians and newspapers shows that in their judgment it would be justifiable to rob European bondholders by compelling them to accept fifty cents in repayment of every dollar they have lent to the United States. Were such men in power they would bring down upon the United States a cyclone of distrust which would wreck every interest in the country as disastrously as St. Louis was wrecked by the recent storm, and Canada would also suffer damage exceeding any yet inflicted on this country.

DOMINION BANK.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Bank, held at Toronto on 27th May, with the Report and Statement, were of the routine order characteristic of this bank. The bare facts were presented showing the net profits of the year were \$189,862. As this provided for four quarterly dividends of 3 per cent. each, with \$9,862 to spare, the shareholders were too much gratified to ask explanations, or to care for any comments. It was a clear case of silence being golden. The unusually high profits are the result of a Reserve Fund equal to the paid-up Capital, and a large business conducted on a small capital. If the Reserve Fund of \$1,500,000 is invested in gilt-edged securities it yields 3½ per cent. net, which provides 32 per cent. of the annual dividend at 12 per cent.; the bank holds deposits which bear no interest for as large an amount as the Reserve Fund, and should be returning as large a revenue. So in those two resources alone we find a capacity for earning 7 per cent. on the Capital. This leaves only 5 per cent. to be made up out of the capital, circulation, and other deposits. While managed with even moderate prudence, the Dominion Bank holds an unrivalled position amongst Canadian Banks as a profit earner.

LA BANQUE NATIONALE.

The 36th annual meeting of La Banque Nationale was held at Quebec on 20th May. The tone of the report is more confident in anticipating improved conditions than in some previous years. It would be very gratifying to us were this old French bank to be successful in establishing itself as firmly in public confidence as it was entrenched thirty years ago, when its stock ranged as high as that of the Bank of Montreal. The profits for last year, after providing for accrued interest on deposits was \$126,991. From this there was \$50,895 taken to provide for "bad and doubtful debts," leaving net profits of \$75,096, which is 6.34 per cent. on the paid-up capital. There is clearly a business possessed by the Nationale, which is quite capable of building up a Reserve Fund, and practically working up to the average dividend of our banks. The profits, however, must not be cut down so heavily for bad debts, and this will demand skill and firmness in

the management. Mr. George Crebassa, who was appointed General Manager last year, resigned in April owing to failing health, and Mr. P. Lafrance appointed in his place. We regret to find ex-mayor Villeneuve was not re-elected as a director. Our good wishes go out towards the Nationale, and the best wish we can express is, that its management may be equal to the task of clearing out all doubtful business, and bringing the net profits up to a more satisfactory figure.

PLAN TO FEDERATE THE EMPIRE.

In response to an offer by the *Statist* of a prize of \$5,000 for the best essay on an Imperial Customs Union, Mr. J. G. Colmer, C. M. G., submitted one to which this prize was awarded. We do not propose to discuss the essay controversially, but, as it is too lengthy for re-issue and too important to be passed with a cursory notice, will give a synopsis of its data and suggestions. The question of the closer unity between the Mother Country and her Colonies and Possessions has been declared by the Marquis of Salisbury as, "nothing more nor less than the future of the British Empire," a judgment shared by him with the majority of those who have given the question careful thought. In Federation are latent sources of strength to the Empire as a whole, and to its separate parts. Under Federation the future of Canada would be irrevocably established. The vexing political questions arising out of our proximity to the States would be settled once for all time. The Colonies of Great Britain cover 7 million square miles, over 70 times the area of the motherland. They are blessed with good climates, fertile soils, and other commercial advantages which seem to ensure a future of great expansion. Their distribution, and Inter-Imperial trade are as follows:

	Canada. \$	Australasia. \$	Other colonies \$
<i>Imports.</i>			
Total imports of Empire			
from	126,770,000	267,231,000	302,282,000
Imports from Un. K.	44,950,000	103,960,000	132,310,000
" other colonies.	2,832,000	137,482,000	75,566,000
" For. countries.	78,070,000	25,789,000	96,406,000
Total Revenue, 1893	39,774,000	143,442,000	116,334,000
" Customs Revenue...	21,827,000	39,723,000	23,440,000
<i>Exports.</i>			
Total exports of Empire to			
Exports to U. Kingdom..	61,750,000	153,060,000	185,150,000
" Other colonies	5,308,000	140,321,000	51,971,000
" For. countries.	51,442,000	36,332,000	106,076,000

The total imports of an Imperial character, those that is, which included all the goods received by the ports of the Empire from other parts of the Empire amounted in 1893 to \$1,115,860,000, over eleven hundred millions, and the total exports from all parts of the Empire to all other Imperial ports being the same amount. This gives us a measure of the relative proportion of inter-Imperial foreign trade to the total foreign trade of the Empire, which in 1893 was as follows: the total Imports into all the ports of the Empire were valued at \$2,915,850,000 and the Exports, \$2,460,000,000. The difference then between the gross foreign trade of the Empire, and the total of it done within Imperial limits is very great. The problem of how the amount of this difference can be reduced by diverting the trade

now done by the Empire with countries outside the area over which British power extends, into channels running into and through British possessions, is one of the most difficult ever presented for the solution of statesmen. If Mr. Colmer has solved it by his exceedingly valuable Essay, he will have well earned his \$5,000 prize. He suggests that differential duties be levied on all articles entering Imperial ports in favor of British grown, or British made articles. He proposes for instance that Great Britain levy a small duty, about 25 cents on 480 lbs. on foreign wheat, which is nearly 5 per cent on value. This would make a breach in the Free Trade policy of England, which many of her statesmen are beginning to see needs modification to meet modern business conditions. On flour a duty of 9 cents per cwt. is proposed. The imports of wheat and flour from Imperial ports into England amount to about \$19,000,000, and those from places outside the Empire \$115,000,000. The question is, would a duty on the latter largely increase the former? Canada would have no objection to the change, as she stands ready to grow all the wheat, and to grind all the flour which the motherland requires. If the supplies of these two staples were drawn wholly from places within the Empire, it would lower the foreign exports of the United States very seriously, and tend to bring about fiscal changes on a large scale in this country. Besides wheat and flour, it is proposed that hemp, ivory, leather, sugar, wool, tallow, sealskins, mahogany, coffee, tea, etc., be placed under discriminatory duties especially favoring those imported from British possessions. Mr. Colmer estimates that these duties, as suggested in his essay, would only increase the customs duties of the United Kingdom by 3½ per cent., or about \$3,500,000, which seems a trifling sum to be relied upon to divert the enormous volume of foreign trade which is coveted by the Empire for her exclusive advantage.

As the whole scheme of Federation is blocked by England's Free Trade Policy, Mr. Colmer quotes Sir Gordon Sprigg, who is an eminent economic authority, and not a protectionist, as saying: "It is getting to be understood that Free Trade is made for man, not man for Free Trade." He also speaks of the old-fashioned respect for Free Trade being "fetish worship," which is passing away. Mr. Chamberlain also recently spoke of Free Trade as a system of expediency, to be modified as a country needs fiscal changes. Other statesmen favor Free Trade within the Empire, and duties on all non-imperial imports to be imposed by the mother country and all her colonies. As we have said, the question is of supreme importance; the discussion of it foreshadows the drawing closer of the Imperial ties for mutual defence, mutual help, mutual stimulus, and mutual support. A Federated Empire would add dignity and strength to each and all its parts. The consolidation of British power, British trade, and British interests and sympathies into political unity would enable the Empire to maintain even a state of splendid isolation with sublime confidence in her being so invincible as to ensure her perpetual peace.

LA BANQUE d'HOHELAGA.

The Bank of Hochelaga scored another success in its operations last year. The net profits reached \$81,435, which is 10 per cent. on the paid-up capital of \$800,000 with \$1,435 to spare. The bank is one of the smaller institutions, and in this respect has advantages, more especially in such times as we have been experiencing. A business in a "ring fence," as it were, can be selected more carefully and more closely watched and controlled than one spread over a very wide area by a number of branches. At the same time experience shows that small banks do not generally use their advantages more profitably than those larger institutions who have more to contend with. The address of the General Manager, Mr. Prendergast, at the annual meeting, was directed to the need of more economy in living. We hope to use his valuable remarks in a future issue. Mr. F. X. St. Charles was re-elected President, and Mr. R. Bickerdike, Vice-President.

A BLIND CURRENCY GUIDE.

Our contemporary the *Insurance and Commercial Magazine*, who has taken up the advocacy of fiat money, seems to illustrate the old saying of none being so blind as those who will not see, for he denies the existence of what we venture to say, no person with his eyes open can fail to see quite clearly. In his April issue occurs the following passage:

"Fiat money, either of silver or paper, does not depreciate in purity of value with fiat gold money; it never did, or will, in any established nation. The fiat legal tender money issued during the early stages of the late war was never below par with gold fiat money." It is enough to make one doubt the evidence of his eyesight to read that fiat paper money never did depreciate in any established nation. There it is, however, on page 941, amongst the editorial notes of the above publication.

The writer manifestly never heard of the premiums paid for gold in the United States during the civil war, and later. A person with, say, \$150 of "fiat legal tender money," was then able to exchange it for only \$100 worth of fiat gold money. Both these forms of currency had been issued by the government, both were "fiat," in the sense of bearing the government stamp.

Yet in spite of that fiat of the government everybody was compelled by the circumstances then prevailing—the circumstances that is which lowered the credit of the government—to give \$15 of paper money in exchange for \$10 in gold. That is, solid gold coins for \$10 were worth \$15 in fiat paper money. A score of similar cases of fiat money depreciation could be given, such as the fact that, the fiat paper money of Argentina is now at such a discount that it takes \$260 of it to buy \$100 in gold. Since the late war the fiat paper money of Peru is worth little more than wrapping paper. Yet in the face of such facts an insurance organ declares that fiat paper money never did depreciate in parity of value with fiat gold money! No institutions are more vitally interested in having monetary and banking systems based upon a gold standard than the

insurance companies. Were policy-holders to become distrustful of their claims being paid in gold, the business of the companies would be very seriously affected. The man who is making yearly sacrifices of his personal pleasure, or comfort, in order to keep up a life assurance policy to protect his family, wishes to have something of more certain value than mere "fiat" money.

The great insurance companies should therefore stand by the bankers, the prominent merchants, the financial authorities, and all who prefer sound money to doubtful in seeking such legislation as will establish the currency and entire banking system of the United States on a gold standard basis, by which, and by which alone, it will command absolute confidence at home and abroad. Fiat money is a perpetual menace to public credit, and wherever adopted is a constant annoyance and injury to trade by its instability. One of the most hopeful signs of the times in the United States is the universal condemnation of fiat money and all unsound forms of currency by those who represent the wealth, the commercial enterprise, the higher intelligence, and the patriotism of the people of America.

POPULAR MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT SOME AVERAGES.

Although averages are at times an exceedingly interesting and valuable form of statistics, they are frequently neither one nor the other, but worthless, and misleading to the average observer. Take for instance the very common statement in regard to the average incidence of some form of taxation. We are told that the average amount of Custom duties paid annually by the people of Canada is \$4 per head of the entire population. If this is taken as the standard, as is commonly the case, the impost would be about \$20 per family, which would be large for the greater proportion of the people. But the statement is really worthless as an indication of the incidence of Customs duties. A large majority of the people pay a very trifling sum indeed for Customs duties; their small incomes are expended on articles not subject to duty. On the other hand a minority of the people pay Customs duties, in some cases one hundred times the so called average of \$4 per head. Twenty-five per cent. of Custom duties are derived from articles which are either luxuries, or used voluntarily in preference to goods that are made at home, upon which there is no duty. As so large a number of our people buy nothing, or very little, which is subject to duty, the introduction of their numbers into the problem of averages in this connection is usually misleading, as the impression is generally conveyed that every one of the population pays this average amount.

There are probably 200 or 300 Canadians who pay a minimum of \$1,000 a year for Custom duties, for direct importations, and purchases of dutiable goods. Taking their contributions to aggregate, say \$200,000 yearly, it follows that they pay the total sum levied, on the average theory, on 50,000 persons who are entirely relieved from paying their share of the impost. Those

who pay sums of \$20 to \$100 a year in Customs run up into thousands, every one of whom in the proportion to which his contribution exceeds \$4, relieves a number of others. If he pays \$20 in duties he pays for himself and four others; if \$100, for himself and twenty-four others, on the basis of \$4 per head average. On those of small incomes the incidence of this form of taxation cannot then be anything approaching an average of \$4 per head, as the contributions of so large a number of our people are so largely in excess of this sum. It has been, however, alleged that the average citizen besides his average of \$4 a year contributes also indirectly to the Customs revenue. The assertion is a self-contradictory fallacy. The Customs revenue in round numbers amounts to 20 millions of dollars a year. If 5 millions of people could be made to call at the Treasury, and each one would deposit his average of \$4, the total revenue would be made up. Where then would the indirect payment come in? The statement then of Customs taxation being so much per head is quite crude, and that it is very misleading is manifested by this amount being constantly spoken of as though it were the smallest sum contributed by any citizen, whereas on analysis it is proved that the average payment does not indicate, and does not imply, that each inhabitant pays an average of \$4, but is only an arithmetical problem having no practical bearing upon the incidence of taxation.

Another misleading average is arrived at by dividing the gross debt of a country by its population, and the resultant figures being called the amount of the debt per head. Suppose the demand were made for the public debt to be paid off—an event as probable as the arrival of settlers from the moon—on what basis would the levy be made to raise the funds? Would it be made on the "per head" basis, like the old Poll tax? There is nothing more impossible. On whatever plan it were arranged it would, in some form, recognise the various financial capacities of the people, their contributions would be graded according to their means, as far as ascertainable. The average of the debt is \$50 per head. The millionaires \$100,000 would thus pay the whole liability of 2,000 other persons, or, reduce one-half the share of 4,000. The average then for which each of our people is liable for the debt probably for the wage earning classes would not amount per head to more than \$4 or \$5. Yet we have statements made to this class which are intended to impress them with the utterly absurd idea that they are at any time liable to a demand of \$50 per head, as their share of their country's debt! On the 16th inst one of the ablest barristers in Ontario, told an audience as "a most alarming" fact, that, "every man, woman and child was liable to be called on to pay \$50 on account of the debt." While then as a question in arithmetic, it is quite true that the total net debt of Canada averages \$50 per head of the population, it is not warrantable to vary that statement by giving it any local, or personal, or any other restricted application. This applies also to the average cost of the debt per head of about \$2.09. The vast mass of those of narrow income,

the laboring and artisan classes, do not contribute enough towards the charges on the debt to pay for collecting it, if it were made a direct tax on all classes. The late Baron Rothschild gave the socialist Germans of Frankfort an object lesson about averages which is memorable. During the revolution of 1878 a body of them demanded of him the distribution of his wealth. He replied, "Certainly, with pleasure, I will divide up amongst Germans. I own about 20 million thalers, that will give nearly a thaler to each one in Germany. You number thirty or forty, here," handing them a bag of silver, "is a thaler each for your share, now send along the twenty millions and I will give them each one thaler!" This view of the question was unanswerable, they each took a coin and dispersed sadder but wiser men. The great majority of those who imagine themselves to be taxed \$4 per head for Customs, and in danger of being called on to pay \$50 to pay the Federal debt, would be happier and wiser if they disabused their minds of false ideas about averages.

SUMMER DIVIDENDS.

The following Bank dividends were declared payable on 1st June, and Loan & Savings Companies between 30th June and 8th July.

	Totals.
Bank of Montreal.....5 per cent.	\$600,000
Merchants Bank.....4 "	240,000
Bank of Commerce.....3½ "	210,000
" Toronto.....5 "	100,000
Imperial Bank.....5 "	98,180
Quebec.....3 "	75,000
Bank of Ottawa.....4 "	50,000
" Hamilton.....4 "	50,000
Standard Bank.....4 "	40,000
Union.....3 "	30,000
Banque d'Hochelega.....½ "	28,000
Traders' Bank.....3 "	21,000
Banque Jacques Cartier.....3 "	15,000
" Ville-Marie.....3 "	14,388
Total Bank dividends.....	\$1,587,568
Western Canada Loan, etc., Co.....4 per cent.	\$ 60,000
Huron & Erie Loan Co.....4½ "	63,000
Central Canada.....1½ "	18,750
Farmer's Loan.....3 "	18,342
Hamilton Provident.....3 "	33,000
Freehold.....3 "	39,600
Union Loan & Savings.....3 "	21,000
Building & Loan.....2½ "	18,750
Ontario Loan & Debenture.....3½ "	42,000
Landed Credit.....3 "	30,000
Toronto General Trust Co.....2½ "	5,975
Total Loan Co. dividends.....	\$350,417

The dividends of other companies not in above list will raise the total amount distributed in June and early in July, by the bank and loan companies, up to about \$2,192,668.

The unpaid premiums of the American fire insurance companies on the 10th January, 1895, including those of their foreign business, amounted to about 20 millions. *Insurance Age* pertinently remarks: "Assuming this amount to be the average for the year round, it makes a sum upon which five per cent. interest would amount to one million dollars." This is one-sixth of the total amount paid in dividends in 1895. There seems urgent need of some concerted measures being adopted to reduce these unpaid premiums to within more reasonable limits.

FINANCIAL ITEMS.

The City and District Savings Bank will pay a dividend of \$8 per share on and after 2nd July.

The Hull, Que., Town Council have placed \$65,000 of their debentures at par with Mr. R. Wilson Smith.

Mr. Hugh Leach, after a service of 38 years in the Bank of Toronto, retired recently, and was the recipient of a handsome present from the staff, by whom he was greatly respected. We hope Mr. Leach will have his health thoroughly restored to enjoy a rest.

The United States Treasury has received final instalment in payment of the last issue of government bonds. The supply of money is excessive, rates for commercial paper being from 4 to 4½ for gilt-edged bills, and for call money 1½ to 2 per cent.

The Banks are not showing as good results as last year. The Bank of Commerce made more net profits than in 1895, but has to take \$200,000 from Rest to provide for probable losses. The Imperial made less profits, but still had enough for dividend and bonus. The Merchants cleared less than last year, but has \$79,000 to spare after paying its usual dividend.

The price of Consols is now 113½. The government has stopped buying for sinking fund purposes, but as its Savings Bank deposits are increasing it will have to purchase Consols to utilize these funds. There seems a likelihood of the interest on these deposits being reduced to two per cent. Consols would barely cover this rate.

The finances of Newfoundland show decided improvement, according to the Governor's speech on opening the Legislature. The revenue was \$1,550,000 for year and expenditures \$1,350,000, leaving a surplus of \$200,000. The Island has a favorable outlook for the coming year. It has floated a loan for \$2,500,000 at 3½ per cent., at from 97 to par.

The Banks of New Zealand (five), according to their latest report to hand for 31st March last, had notes in circulation for \$4,645,000, deposits bearing interest \$40,045,000, not bearing interest \$25,785,000, coin and bullion on hand for \$16,400,000, discounts \$8,690,000. Their total liabilities were, \$77,370,000, and assets \$83,108,000. It is singular to find no mention made of their capital in the statement.

An estimate of the income and expenditure of the people of New South Wales, has been made by the *Australasian Record*, which gives the total income of the Colony as \$295,400,000, and their expenditure \$280,000,000. The population is 1,250,000, which shows an average income of \$236.30. If this were the minimum it would be highly satisfactory, but as given it gives no indication whatever about the average condition of the people.

The Canadian clearing-houses returns for the week ending June 11th, 1896, were as follows, compared with those of the previous week:—

Clearings.	June 11.	June 4.
Montreal.....	\$10,623,970	\$11,317,751
Toronto.....	7,544,901	7,973,167
Halifax.....	1,154,664	1,094,983
Winnipeg.....	961,344	967,667
Hamilton.....	687,353	641,201
St. John, N.B.....	639,238	507,898
	\$ 21,611,460	\$22,502,667

The shares of the Bank of Commerce, now quoted at 123, are worth the attention of investors; at this price they would yield over 5½ per cent.

Mr. Hebden, who for some years has been assistant manager of the Merchants Bank, Toronto, has been appointed Assistant General Manager, the duties of which office he will assume before the Fall. We congratulate Mr. Hebden, who, as a very courteous and capable official, will be a valuable and much appreciated acquisition to the Head Office staff.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by Correspondents

TORONTO LETTER.

The McKendry & Co. fire in Yonge street.—The Insurance.—The probable loss.—Delay in effecting entrance.—The value of domestic fire appliances.—The Water Tower gives good service.—No reduction of rates of insurance likely this year.—More of the silence of Alderman Lamb.—A pleasant meeting.—Regrets.—The coming struggle.

DEAR EDITOR,

The most notable event of the week is the fire in McKendry's large dry goods and ladies' furnishings store, No. 202 Yonge street, which occurred at 6.45 p.m. Monday, the 8th inst. As far as can be ascertained the fire started at or about the foot of the elevator, and in an incredibly short time, spread all over; no doubt facilitated by the elevator shaft. The premises were closed to business at 6 p.m. and vacated wholly, shortly after. It is said the fire was burning only ten minutes before discovery, but on arrival of the first hose-reel a delay of five minutes ensued in effecting an entrance, the reason of which is alleged to have been the difficulty met with in trying to force entrance through the front doors, which were closed with an iron bar. The reel men were unable to break in the door, not having with them any tool such as a crowbar or other implement sufficient for such work. If this be true the city should see that the men are all supplied with a proper outfit for forcible entrance. The reel men are always first to arrive, and minutes are precious at the outbreak of fires. The water tower was used to good purpose and did its work well. This fire, however, was one of the obstinate kind, and for hours refused to be put out. There is no doubt but that at one time the whole block was in peril. In all likelihood, had the T. Eaton Co's. premises taken fire, the block would have gone, for these buildings dominate the block,—Messrs. Love & Hamilton and Jos B. Reed had the placing of the insurance on building and contents, and in consequence all the insurance was strictly confined to Board Companies, to the present comfort and satisfaction of the non-board offices. The insurance on buildings I hear is \$30,000, stock \$130,000, fittings, fixtures and furniture, \$40,000. The loss on stock, if not total, from present appearances will reach nearly to that, if the quantity of goods were on the premises as reported. The loss on building will be about \$9,000. Some damage to the Eaton party wall is claimed by that firm, but this is disputed. The T. Eaton Co's. premises were in great measure saved (again) by the vigilance and activity of their own little brigade, with their appliances. An intense feeling is prevalent as regards the origin of this fire, and of the future of the block of buildings in which Eaton's Departmental and the other stores are situated. You will remember that the third of the three conflagrations of 1895, which started in Simpson's, on the opposite corner, did great damage to this same block. This was the other occasion on which Eaton's domestic fire appliances protected their building. Experts say that the water tower last Monday night fully justified the city's outlay in procuring it, as it undoubtedly prevented a greater disaster. As the actual loss by above fire is expected to be not far off \$200,000, it must be ranked as a heavy

one for Toronto, and therefore there will be no removal of the extra 15c for conflagration hazard in the congested district this year. About 200 employees of McKendry Co. have been thrown out of work by this fire, a most regrettable feature of the situation, when so many unemployed are in our streets now.

Alderman Lamb is not saying anything just now about his civic insurance scheme. His duties on the Board of Control prevent his giving that attention, etc., etc., etc.

I had the pleasure lately of meeting Mr. Charles E. Goad, wearing his usual button-hole bouquet of "forget-me-not," and looking well and hearty. His assumption of the "forget-me-not" as his favorite flower, is harmonious with his views of things in a professional as well as a sentimental way. He has met with great success, and profit, I think, in his avocation as delineator and publisher of fire insurance diagrams and plans for this Dominion, and elsewhere. I suppose, barring Sundays no day dawns without his name being either spoken or written by some insurance man between Vancouver and Halifax. That is something like fame. It is at least the realization of "forget-me-not."

Much regret was expressed amongst the insurance fraternity at the news of the death in your city of Mr. E. D. Lacy, Manager of the Imperial Fire Insurance Company for Canada, and the sad circumstances surrounding its occurrence. As a worthy representative of his Company and a genial confrere, he was favourably known in Toronto, and his active participation in the deliberations at Annual and other meetings of the C. F. U. A. are well remembered. At a special meeting of the Western Branch of the C. F. U. A., held on Friday, the 12th inst., a Resolution of regret and of sympathy with his bereaved family was passed.

Ere I shall next have the pleasure of writing you, the great question of the hour, which of the two great political parties shall win, will have been decided. One result will follow, irrespective of party,—agen's, and perhaps some managers, will have more time to attend to legitimate business,

Yours,
ARIEL.

TORONTO, 13th June, 1896.

Notes and Items.

The Canadian Sick Benefit Society has this day received a license to transact in Canada the business of insurance against sickness and disability, assessment plan.

A Company, not named, is to apply for incorporation to do guaranteeing business on a blanket character; every form of financial risk to firms or individuals is to be insured against.

The Northern Life Assurance Company has been formed in London, Ont., with the Hon. David Mills as president. The subscribed stock is reported to be \$500,000, of which \$45,000 is paid up.

The case of the Stanstead and Sherbrooke Fire Insurance Company vs the Central Vermont Railway Co., which was decided by Court of Appeals in favor of the former company, is to be carried to the Privy Council.

The Independent Order of Foresters was accorded a license on 1st May, to undertake with its members in Canada, the contract or contracts of life, disability, and sickness insurance on the assessment plan to extent specified in Act of Incorporation.

The danger of benzine is shown by a case of it which took fire 35 feet away from a lighted match, the intervening space was filled with its vapor from a quantity of the benzine having been carried through it leaving an inflammable track of gas.

The Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada has opened an office at Aberdeen, of which Mr. T. G. Setlier has been appointed district manager.

A comical case was recently tried at Brighton, England, a claim being made for indemnity for loss of a horse, which the insurance company declared was not dead as alleged, in proof whereof they produced a horse that was sworn to be the original and so won the suit. This decision on appeal was reversed, proof of death being complete. The horse will be a less respected creature if it becomes a party to graveyard insurance.

The Quinquennial Valuation of the liabilities of the life department of the London Assurance Corporation as at December 31, 1895, has been made by the HM Table at 3 per cent. interest, instead of at 3½ per cent, as on the previous occasion. The surplus in the participating series amounts to £214,080, and the resulting cash bonus to holders of life policies is at the rate of 27½ per cent. of the premiums paid in the five years.

The following question and answer appeared in the New York *Commercial Bulletin*:—If a policy is held in a New Jersey Life Insurance Company in favor of the wife, and in event of her prior death, to revert to the husband, can, in the event of the husband's death, the creditors of the husband attach the proceeds of the policy?

REPLY.—Under the statutes of this State if a husband's life is insured for the benefit of his wife, either in a New York company or in one incorporated under the laws of any other State, the proceeds are not liable to attachment for the debts of the husband if he dies before the wife. If she dies first, and the policy makes no provision for the children, then its proceeds are part of his personal estate and liable for his debts.

Messrs J. L. Cassidy & Co's premises and stock, St. Paul St., this city, were badly injured by fire on 7th inst. The origin of the fire is a mystery. On the building were the following insurances: the Liverpool and London and Globe \$8000, the North British \$12,000, the Imperial \$12,000; on the fixtures the Caledonian had \$4,000, and on the stock were the following insurances: Aetna \$5,000, Alliance \$5,000, Atlas \$5,000, Caledonian \$3,500, Coml. Union \$20,000, Hartford \$7,500, Lancashire \$2,500, Liverpool and London and Globe \$10,000, London \$10,000, North British and Mercantile \$9,000, Northern \$10,000, Norwich Union \$5,000, North America \$10,000, National of Ireland \$2,500, Phoenix of Hartford \$5,000, Phoenix of London \$5,000, Quebec \$5,000, Queen \$5,000, Royal \$10,000.

The invaluable work done by Agents is well described by the *Insurance Review*, which amongst other things says in a recent issue: "The agents have worked, moulding the thought of the people, until a silent revolution has been wrought. As in all revolutions, the moving spirits had nasty epithets thrown at them. But heedless of these the agents kept at their work. It is mainly the agents who have popularized life assurance, who have inculcated the need of self-help and foresight, who have educated men in their duties, and have shown them what the system is, and how to apply it to their own needs. Life assurance provided capital when, without it, the business of prosperous men would have run in danger of collapse. It has given comfort where but for it there would have been cheerlessness and want, it has given independence where without it the recipients must have sought either the help of friends, or relief from sources which sacrifice self-respect.

The Fire loss in Canada in May, as our list will show, was unusually heavy, the total insurance loss being \$600,840, about double the average of preceding four months. The Hawkesbury, Warren, and Katrine saw mills caused \$108,000 loss, the Peterboro and Sarnia flour mills, \$76,000, and the conflagration at Deseronto \$145,000. The May losses spoil the record of this year, which was so promising, the total to May being close upon the figures for 1895.

A German expert, after a careful estimate, has announced that the total length of telegraph lines in the world is 1,062,700 miles, of which America has 545,600 miles; Europe, 280,700; Asia, 67,400; Africa, 21,500, and Australia, 47,500 miles. The United States has a greater length than any other country, 403,900 miles, and Russia comes next, although European Russia has only 81,000 miles. The other countries follow in this order: Germany, France, Austria-Hungary, British India, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Canada, Italy, Turkey, the Argentine Republic, Spain and Chili. In point of proportion, however, Belgium leads, with 409 miles of wire for every 1000 square miles of territory; Germany comes next with 350 miles; Holland is only slightly behind Germany, and the United Kingdom has 280 miles of telegraph for every 1000 miles of country.

Insurance Commissioner Fricke in his last report has the following: "The life insurance agent is entitled to good compensation; his work requires a high order of intelligence, much thought, study and perseverance. He is not to be blamed for the evils of rebating; it is due to the method of compensation—the competition among the companies for new business, even if obtained at the expense of the old. If instead of anti-rebate laws, companies were required to state in each policy the exact amount of the premium which may be used for expenses, the amount not to be fixed by law, but to be determined by each company, the competition between companies would resolve itself into a demonstration as to which could conduct its business most economically. Dividends would have a new or old-time meaning—estimates no longer mean disappointment to the policy-holder—the agent would receive a smaller first commission, and a larger renewal interest, brokerage and bonuses would cease and rebate to be a thing of the past. The remedy lies with the companies and not with the agents, and the law should not be invoked to cure an evil for which the companies alone possess the remedy."

This month has been marked by two heavy fires, one in this city and the other in Toronto. The fire at Messrs. McKendry & Co's dry goods store occurred on the 8th inst., within an hour of the place being closed up early in the evening. The suspicion is very strong that it was started maliciously with the intent to involve the department store, next door, of Eaton & Co., against which there is a strong feeling owing to its competitive methods being ruinous to smaller stores. The insurance on the stock at McKendry & Co. was as follows: Lancashire \$2,500, Sun \$15,000, Northern \$5,000, National \$5,000, Union \$7,000, Nor. Union \$5,000, Royal \$10,000, Coml. Union, 5,000, Phoenix of Hartford \$5,000, Connecticut \$5,000, Scot. Union \$9,000, London and Lancashire \$5,000, Manchester \$9,000, Alliance \$10,000, Northern \$7,500, London Assurance \$5,000, North British & Mercantile \$10,000, Queen \$5,000, Mercantile \$5,000. The Lancashire had \$8,000 on building and fixtures, the Union \$3,000 on fixtures, the Norwich Union \$3,000 on building, the Royal \$5,000, on fixtures, the Liverpool & London & Globe \$10,000 on the building, and the Western \$13,000 on building. The total insurance was \$172,000, the loss is estimated at about \$80,000.

The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of May, as compiled from the daily records of the New York *Commercial Bulletin*, shows a total of \$10,618,000. This is nearly three millions more than the sum charged against May, 1895. The following comparative table exhibits the losses during the first five months of the years 1894, 1895 and 1896:

	1894.	1895.	1896.
January	\$10,568,400	\$11,895,600	\$11,040,000
February	11,297,600	12,360,200	9,730,100
March	9,147,100	14,239,300	14,839,600
April	11,440,000	11,018,150	12,010,600
May	10,777,800	7,761,350	10,618,000
Totals	\$33,330,900	\$57,274,600	\$58,238,300

During the month of May there were 180 fires of a greater destructiveness than \$10,000 each. They may be classified as below:

\$10,000 to \$20,000.....	72
20,000 to 30,000.....	28
30,000 to 50,000.....	27
50,000 to 75,000.....	19
75,000 to 100,000.....	7
100,000 to 200,000.....	15
200,000 to 475,000.....	12
Total.....	180

The most important fires last month were the following:—

San Francisco, Cal., lead reduction works.....	\$300,000
Somerset, Ky., railroad property.....	300,000
Ashland, Wis., lumber docks and other.....	478,000
San Francisco, Cal., iron works.....	200,000
Paterson, N.J., malt house and other.....	300,000
Mount Holly, N.J., carpet mill.....	200,000
L'Anse, Mich., various.....	260,000
Atlanta, Ga., hotel and business block.....	340,000
Washington, D.C., business block.....	200,000
Davis, W. Va., forest fires.....	200,000
Deseronto, Ont., milling property.....	300,000
St. Louis, Mo., various.....	250,000

We fear the June record will be equally bad, the month having opened most inauspiciously.

PERSONALS.

THE callers recently whom we were glad to see included Mr. L. A. Stewart, of Toronto, Manager of United States Life; Mr. E. M. Sipprell, St. John, N. B., Provincial Manager Ontario Mutual Life; Mr. A. K. Blackadar, Insurance Department, Ottawa; and Mr. C. R. Burt, Secretary, Connecticut Fire Insurance Company, Hartford.

MR. IRA B. THAYER has resigned his position as Superintendent of Agencies of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, to take a similar one with the Travelers' Insurance Company, of Hartford. Mr. Thayer is a valuable acquisition to the Travelers', and his resignation is much regretted by the Sun Life. Mr. Thayer's work will be confined to the Dominion of Canada, with headquarters at Toronto. His many friends wish him every prosperity.

MR. GEORGE SIMPSON, Manager of the Royal Insurance Company for Canada, was married on the 19th May to Miss Jessie Moffett of Onseats, Aberdeen, Scotland. They sailed on 23rd May by S.S. "Lucaia," and arrived in Montreal on 2nd June. Mr. Simpson was presented shortly after his arrival by the staff and city agents of the Royal with a very handsome cabinet containing complete sets of silver and cutlery. The presentation was made by Mr. Tatley, the retired Manager, now Resident Director.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE

founded 1710.

CHIEF OFFICE:

63 THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E. C.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, \$12,000,000

Paid-up Capital, \$600,000 General Reserve, 5,750,000 Reserves <small>for risks not yet expired, being 40 per cent. of the premium income,</small> 1,958,290		Net Premiums, \$4,896,975 Net Losses Paid and Outstanding, 4,732,610 Annual Income, 5,223,665
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TOTAL ASSETS, - - - \$10,339,975

SURPLUS OVER CAPITAL AND ALL LIABILITIES, over \$7,000,000

SUMS INSURED

1882 \$1,456,500,000	|	1890 \$1,807,500,000
1886 1,632,500,000		1895 1,953,874,780

The Oldest Purely Fire Office in the World

(NOTE.—In the above figures \$5 are taken as the equivalent of £1 Stg.)

CANADIAN BRANCH

Deposited with Dominion Government, \$300,000

HEAD OFFICE, - - 15 Wellington Street East, TORONTO

AGENCIES IN ALL THE PRINCIPAL CITIES AND TOWNS IN CANADA

H. M. BLACKBURN, - - - Manager

The Standard Life Assurance Company

OF EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND.

Accounts for the Year ending 15th November, 1895.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Funds at the beginning of the year	7,954,430	3	6	Claims by death under life policies, including bonus additions (after deduction of sums re-assured)	653,741	5	11
Premiums (less re-assurance premiums)	786,245	17	5	Do. under endowments and endowment assurances matured	24,579	8	3
Consideration for annuities granted	68,496	3	10	Surrenders	49,555	1	10
Interest and dividends	332,862	17	2	Annuities	61,876	2	8
Fines and fees	1,138	5	0	Commission	37,976	2	3
				Expenses of management	94,428	5	10
				Dividend and bonus to shareholders	25,000	0	0
				Income-tax	15,186	2	11
				Exchange account	7,880	6	4
				Special adjustment to bring the rupee assets held against rupee liabilities to a sterling basis, according to the rate of exchange at the date of balance, the liabilities and assets per balance sheet being correspondingly reduced.	194,613	16	0
				Funds at the end of the year as per bal. sheet ..	7,978,336	14	11
	<u>£9,143,173</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>		<u>£9,143,173</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>

BALANCE SHEET.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Shareholders' capital paid up	120,000	0	0	Mortgages on property within the U. Kingdom ..	2,537,088	9	11
Assurance and annuity fund	7,769,882	0	0	Mortgages on property out of the U. Kingdom ..	2,632,685	12	4
Reserve fund	50,000	0	0	Loans on the Company's policies, within their surrender value	402,279	17	8
Balance carried forward	8,454	14	11	British Government securities	29,218	10	3
Total funds, as per revenue account	£7,978,336	14	11	Indian & Colonial Government securities	300,152	5	0
Claims under policies admitted but not paid* ..	147,251	19	4	Foreign Government securities	15,050	0	0
Dividends to proprietors (due at and prior to 15th November) outstanding*	11,987	1	0	Indian and Colonial Municipal bonds	292,355	10	10
Annuities outstanding	849	14	5	Railway and other debentures and debenture stock	331,142	12	6
Staff deposit fund	8,093	2	2	Bank deposits for fixed periods	181,451	18	3
				House property—Freehold	435,815	14	4
				“ Leasehold	20,324	17	11
				Stocks of Scottish Chartered banks	12,641	2	7
				Company's shares	300	0	0
				Ground rents and feu-duties	165,935	18	8
				Life-rents and reversions purchased	126,512	11	8
				Loans upon personal security with policies of assurance, repayable by instalments	153,047	4	5
				Agents' balances in course of collection	173,706	16	9
				Premiums outstanding in course of collection ..	118,365	8	7
				Interest accrued but not due	72,574	18	10
				“ due, but not paid	11,994	0	9
				Cash on deposit	3,590	0	0
				Cash on current accounts and in hand	130,174	6	9
				Deed and receipts stamps in hand	132	13	10
	<u>£8,146,518</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>		<u>£8,146,518</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>

*NOTE.—These items are included in the corresponding items in the first schedule.

NEW BUSINESS OF 1895.

Amount proposed for assurance (5,312 proposals)	£ 2,280,458
Amount of assurances accepted (for which 4,775 policies were issued) ..	1,043,475
Annual premiums on new policies	77,714
Subsisting assurances at 15th November, 1895	22,887,693

STANDARD REPORT—Continued.

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIRECTORS' REPORT.

The results of the new business are again very favorable, the number of policies issued, and the sums assured, thereunder, being both considerably in excess of the corresponding figures for any previous year.

The claims by death are also somewhat in excess of the previous year, but the death rate of the company keeps well within the experience upon which the tables of rates are based. Looking to the return of new business for the five years since last investigation, it is found that the company have during that time granted 19,035 new policies, for £8,656,336.

Since 1850 the number of policies issued, and the corresponding sums assured have been reported as follows for each quinquennium:

Years.	Number of Policies	New Sums Assured.
1850-55.....	4,608	£2,492,988
1855-60.....	4,672	2,815,455
1860-65.....	6,559	3,834,365
1865-70.....	9,190	5,713,813
1870-75.....	6,318	6,048,764
1875-80.....	9,409	6,193,186
1880-85.....	11,925	6,714,260
1885-90.....	13,481	6,928,895
1890-95.....	19,035	8,956,336

The ratio of expenses and commission to the premium income has again decreased for the fourth year in succession, the ratio for the last five years having been as follows:

1891.....	17.85
1892.....	17.35
1863.....	17.37
1894.....	17.36
1895.....	16.84

The expenses have been somewhat increased during these years by the establishment of branches abroad, as has been explained at previous meetings of proprietors, but it must be understood that a widespread business, such as that of the Standard Company, is more costly than one confined to the United Kingdom, though not necessarily less profitable.

The invested funds continue to increase, and, according to the balance sheet, were at 15th November, 1895, £60,116 in excess of the previous year; but the Indian investments are stated differently from what has been the serious practice, as will be afterwards explained, and the comparison is not on this occasion a parallel one. During the last fifteen years the increase in the amount of the funds has been no less than 43 per cent.

The rate of interest on the invested funds has been maintained during the quinquennium, having been as follows for each of the five years:

1891,	£4	3	1
1892,	4	2	3
1893,	4	2	1
1894,	4	2	3
1895,	4	3	7

Indian Exchange.—In short, save in one particular, though that an important one, the progress of the company during the quinquennium has been uninterrupted. But as the results of the investigation have been adversely affected by this exception, it is now necessary to give some account of it before proceeding further. The difficulty has been connected with the rate of exchange with India, a matter which has been alluded to at the general meetings for some years past as engaging the special attention of the directors. As the proprietors are aware, the company has for a long number of years done a large business in India, the moneys collected there not being sent home, but being placed in Indian investments for the selection of which the board had very favourable opportunities.

As all know who have had monetary dealings with India

these funds, which of course stood in rupees, were originally, and for many years, equivalent to sterling money at the exchange of about 2s. per rupee, and so long as the liabilities against which they were held were in the same currency, the sterling value of the rupee did not affect the financial position of the company. Gradually, however, there was accumulated in Indian investments a large sum of money in excess of Indian requirements. The steady fall in the rate of exchange, and the uncertainty with regard to the future value of the rupee, caused at first some hesitation in the minds of the directors as to the best course to pursue with regard to this excess fund, but soon after the last investigation, the rate still continuing to fall, it became apparent to them that there was too little present prospect of a rise in the exchange to justify further delay and, consequently, the whole of the excess of rupee funds, over liabilities in that currency, has been dealt with during the quinquennium either by bringing the funds home at the rates of exchange from time to time prevailing—and this has been the case with the larger proportion of the amount—or by writing down the investments in Indian securities held therefor to the sterling par of exchange of 1s. 2d.

This necessity, and one all the more regrettable, seeing that the investments in India, *per se*, were all of the best and most remunerative description, has thus been forced upon the board by circumstances which have similarly affected all other persons or institutions having like interest in the East; and the result is that a very large sum has had to be written off on this account before bringing out the balance available for profit on the present occasion, which otherwise would have been at least as large as at any previous division. Besides this, the sum of £194,613 16s. has also been deducted from both sides of the account, for the purpose of bringing the rupee assets and rupee liabilities, so far as they balance one another, to the par of 1s. 2d. instead of 2s., at which, for convenience, they have hitherto been allowed to remain. But this, it must be understood, is only a book entry and does not affect the financial position of the company in any way, or the available balance of surplus. It does, however, show the total amount of funds, and also the total amount of liabilities, as less by this sum than they would otherwise have appeared; and in like manner if this change had not been made, the increase of funds over the previous year would have appeared as £254,729, in place of only £60,116 as above reported. In the statements of new assurances effected, and of the total subsisting assurances, the value of the rupee has also now been taken at 1s. 2d.

RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION.

Proceeding now to report the results of the investigation, the board have first of all to submit the following report by the committee of directors appointed to examine and certify the whole of the Company's securities amounting to £8,146,518.

Report of the Committee.—The committee appointed to examine the securities and other property held by the Company, as at 15th November, 1895, have now to report as follows:

They have satisfied themselves of the existence of all the security writs and stock, and share certificates, held by the Company in the United Kingdom, as well as the titles of the Company's heritable or real property therein.

The balances and securities abroad could not be examined by the committee, but these have been sufficiently certified to them by the Company's local directors, auditors, or bankers, or by public officials.

The vouchers for the loans within the value of the Company's policies, and some small items, have been examined by the auditor and accountant, and reported by them to be in order, as certified to the committee.

The committee have also examined the balance sheets of the Company's books, as at 15th November, 1895, and have ascertained that the amount of the assets, evidence of the existence of which they have certified, tallies in aggregate amount with the amounts stated in the balance sheet.

The committee, in the course of their investigation, had before them the fullest and most recent information available, regarding the heritable properties, and other securities, in which the Company's funds are invested, and where any doubt existed of their sufficiency for the full amount represented, such sums as were necessary were written off for loss or depreciation. All investments in rupee currency have been written down to the sterling value of the rupee.

With these explanations, the committee have found the total amount of funds at 15th November, 1895, to be £8,146,518 11s. 10d., which sum was represented by the securities under the review of the committee, and by the other assets enumerated in the second schedule returned to the Board of Trade.

Liabilities and Basis of Valuation.—From the total assets as here stated, there first of all falls to be deducted the outstanding or ascertained liability for proprietors' capital, and certain other vested liabilities, being as follows:

Total assets.....	£8,146,518	11	10
Deduct vested liability—			
Paid-up capital.....	£120,000	0	0
Reserve fund.....	80,000	0	0
Policies become claims by death but under which the settlement has not yet taken place.....	147,251	19	4
Dividends outstanding.....	11,987	1	0
Annuities outstanding.....	849	14	5
Staff deposit fund.....	8,093	2	2
	<u>368,181</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>11</u>
	<u>£7,778,336</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>

Against this sum has to be set the estimated value of the whole of the Company's liabilities, under assurance and annuity contracts, and calculations in connection with the same, which have been carefully prepared and verified by the actuaries, have been laid before the board. Except in special cases where it is not applicable, the English life table has, as of recent years, been used for the valuation of the Company's liabilities.

The rate of interest employed for a considerable proportion of the liabilities is 3 per cent., and for the remainder 3½ per cent., and as the Company's funds still yield over 4 per cent., a considerable margin is left for safety and future profit.

Further, the reserve fund of £80,000 remains unappropriated, and in view of the falling rate of interest on all investments at home and abroad, the board consider it proper to keep this sum available if need be at a future date, still further to strengthen the reserve for liabilities.

With these preliminary observations, the board now state the final result of the valuation, as follows:

Balance of funds after deduction of vested liabilities as before.....	£7,778,336	14	11
Liability under the Company's life assurance and annuity transactions.....	7,340,942	0	0
Balance of assets over liabilities.....	<u>£437,394</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>

Division of Surplus among the Policyholders.—Leaving out of reckoning the sums already paid away during the quinquennium there thus remains for present distribution, the sum of.....

£437,394	14	11	
From which the directors propose to divide amongst the policyholders, in addition to the sum of £35,389 9s. 10d. paid during the quinquennial period as intermediate bonus.....	428,740	0	0
Leaving to carried forward.....	<u>£8,444</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>

The tontine rate of bonus gives 3s. per cent. for each year the policy has existed, and provides a bonus varying according to

the age of the policy up to a maximum addition of £10 1s. per £100 assured. The equal and colonial schemes give a uniform bonus of £5 per £100 assured to all policies of five years old and upwards and a proportionate rate to policies of more recent date.

The total reversionary value of the sums proposed to be added to the Company's policies on the present occasion is £754,541.

Intermediate Bonus till next Investigation.—The directors propose to allow an intermediate bonus to with-profit policies of the Company which become claims by death or mature on or before 14th November, 1900, at the rate of £1 per cent. for each full year's premium (excluding half-yearly or quarterly payments applicable to the preceding year of assurance) due and paid after 15th November, 1895.

Privileges of Policyholders.—At past investigations it has been usual to make announcement of concessions to policyholders by which the policies have been freed from some obsolete restriction, or have been otherwise rendered more valuable documents to possess. On the present occasion no such announcement can be forthcoming, for the sufficient and satisfactory reason that no such possible concessions remain to be made, the Company's policies being now, in the majority of cases, merely a simple contract to pay the sum assured, immediately on proof of death and title, or on attainment of a stipulated age, provided the premiums are duly met, all other writing upon them being privileges conferred on the assured, not conditions imposed upon them.

Extension of the Business.—The development of the new branches goes on very satisfactorily, and the directors are confident that in facing and finally dealing with the question of rupee exchange at this time, they are taking the wisest course to ensure that the Company's progress will still be attended with as full a measure of success as that which has followed it ever since its first establishment seventy years ago.

Board of Directors.—The Report of the Directors cannot be finally closed without reference to the heavy loss the Company has sustained during the past year by the death of three of the members of the Board of Directors, namely, Messrs. Moncrieff Mackenzie of the Edinburgh Board, and Sir Stewart Macnaughten of the London Board—all of whom had taken a warm interest in its management.

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

The CHAIRMAN: I beg to move the adoption of the report, which I hope has explained to you pretty clearly the position of the Company's affairs at the close of the five years that ended on 15th November last, and the cause that has led to a smaller surplus than usual being available for distribution as bonus on this occasion; and in doing so I would allude to one or two points on which, possibly, some fuller explanation may not be out of place. And first, as regards the investments. Having been a member of the Committee which made the usual searching investigation into them, and whose report you have heard read, I am able to assure you that they are, taken altogether, of a very satisfactory character. Of course, in the investment of a fund of over eight millions sterling, yielding an average return of about 4½ per cent., it is not possible to avoid making some mistakes, but any sums which require to be written off are in reality small, and are more than counterbalanced by the profits on those securities which were realised during the period. As regards Irish investments, I need only mention that they have yielded a good rate of interest during the quinquennium, and have recovered some portion of the value, which by way of precaution was written off them five years ago. The amount on deposit with Australian Banks is not large, and no loss of capital is anticipated. As regards our Indian business and the question of exchange, I would first draw your attention to the fact that the large sum of money which was accumulated in India, as referred to in the report, arose from the very prosperity of the Indian business, the Standard Company having always been a household word in India, descriptive of all that a life assurance company ought to be. Secondly, there has been no

speculation in silver; not one penny has been sent from this country to India for investment in anticipation of a rise in exchange; but the sum which was gathered up in India was no more than the legitimate accumulation of income received in the ordinary course of business at the Company's Indian Offices. These accumulations were invested in Indian securities, and in no case has a loss been incurred on any of the investments in which they were placed. Indeed, most of them have very considerably improved in value. Thirdly, the whole loss has been met and provided for during the quinquennium now ended. And lest it should be thought that there is a possibility of further loss from depreciation of the rupee excess funds still remaining in India below the valuation of 1s. 2d., at which they stand in the books at 15th November, I may mention that a considerable portion of these funds have already been realised at a larger price than could have been got for them at that date.

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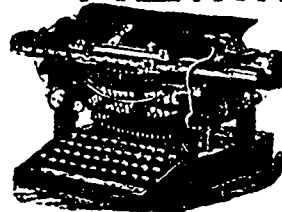
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LOSSES PAID SINCE ORGANIZATION, \$22,000,000

DIRECTORS:

GEORGE A. COX, *President.*

Hon. S. C. WOOD W. R. BROCK
 GEO. R. R. COCKBURN, M.P. J. K. OSBORNE
 GEO. McMURRICH H. N. BAIRD
 ROBERT BEATY

J. J. KENNY, *Vice-President and Managing Director.*

Agencies in all the principal Cities and Towns in Canada and the United States.

THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

OF NEW YORK

RICHARD A. McCURDY, President

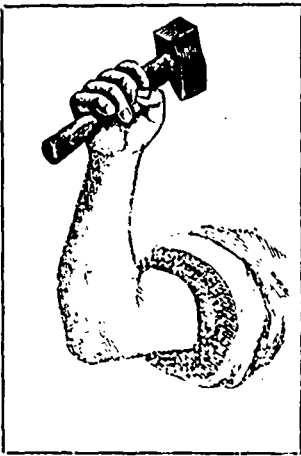
IS THE LARGEST INSURANCE COMPANY IN THE WORLD

ASSETS, = \$221,213,721 00

Liabilities—(or guarantee fund)	\$194,347,157 00
Surplus—31st December, 1895,	26,866,563 00
Total Income, 1895,	48,597,480 00
Total paid Policy-holders in 1895,	23,126,728 00
Insurance and Annuities in Force, December 31, 1895,	899,074,453 00
Net Gain in 1895,	61,647,645 00
Increase in Total Income,	576,561 00
Increase in Assets,	16,574,938 00
Increase in Surplus,.....	4,337,236 00
Increase of Insurance and Annuities in Force,	43,866,675 00
Paid to Policy-holders from the date of Organization, =	\$411,567,605 34

THE MUTUAL LIFE ISSUES EVERY DESIRABLE FORM OF POLICY.

FAYETTE BROWN, General Manager, Montreal.



MANUFACTURERS' GUARANTEE AND ACCIDENT Insurance Company.

Head Office, - TORONTO.

ACT OF INCORPORATION AMENDED BY 56 VIC., CAP. 80, 1893.

The Policies of this Company cover accidents of all kinds incurred in sport, business, or travel at home or abroad and are in increasing demand. More than one-half of all the Employers' Liability in Canada is upon the books of this, the only purely Canadian Accident Company doing business in Canada.

E. W. WILSON, Chief City Agent, MONTREAL.

Scottish Union & National

Insurance Company of Edinburgh, Scotland.
ESTABLISHED 1824.

Capital, - - - - -	\$30,000,000
Total Assets, - - - - -	40,508,907
Deposited with Dominion Government, - - - - -	125,000
Invested Assets in Canada, - - - - -	1,415,468

M. BENNETT, Manager North American Department.
J. H. BREWSTER, Asst. Manager.
HARTFORD, Conn.
WALTER KAVANAGH, - Resident Agent,
17 St. Francois Xavier Street, MONTREAL.

THE

CALEDONIAN

Insurance Co. of Edinburgh

Funds \$10,000,000.

Chairman, - - - - -	Sir George Warrender
General Manager, - - - - -	David Deuchar, F. I. A.
Canadian Manager, - - - - -	Lansing Lewis
Toronto Agents, - - - - -	Muntz & Beatty

THE WATERLOO

MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
ESTABLISHED IN 1863.

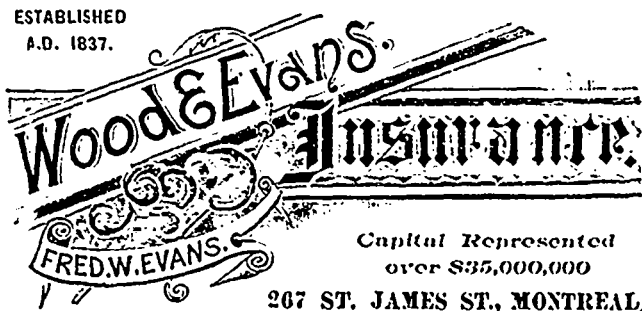
Head Office, - - - - - WATERLOO, ONT.

TOTAL ASSETS - - - - -	\$353,184.00
POLICIES IN FORCE, - - - - -	22,582

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

GEORGE RANDALL, President. **C. M. TAYLOR**, Secretary.
JOHN KILLER, Inspector. **JOHN SHUH**, Vice-President

ESTABLISHED
A.D. 1837.



Capital Represented
over \$35,000,000

207 ST. JAMES ST., MONTREAL.

PHOENIX

Assurance Company of London, England.

ESTABLISHED 1782.

Agency Established in Canada in 1804

PATERSON & SON,

— GENERAL AGENTS FOR DOMINION. —

HEAD AGENCY OFFICE,

35 St. Francois Xavier Street, MONTREAL.

FIRE INS. *HARTFORD* COMPANY

ESTABLISHED - - - - - 1810.
HARTFORD, CONN.

CASH ASSETS, \$9,229,213.

Fire Insurance Exclusively.

GEO. L. CHASE, President **P. C. ROYCE**, Secretary
JOHN W. MOLSON, Resident Manager, Montreal.

CONNECTICUT

Fire Insurance Company

OF HARTFORD, CONN.

CASH CAPITAL, - - - - -	ONE MILLION DOLLARS.
CASH ASSETS, - - - - -	THREE MILLION DOLLARS

J. D. BROWN, President.
CHARLES R. BURR, Secretary. **L. W. CLARKE**, Ass't Secretary.
DOMINION GOVERNMENT DEPOSIT, \$100,000.00.
C. R. G. JOHNSON, Resident Agent, MONTREAL.

PHENIX

INSURANCE COMPANY,
OF BROOKLYN, N.Y.

JAMES C. SINTON, Agent,
MONTREAL, Que.

J. W. BARLEY, General Agent,
NEW YORK.

THE GUARANTEE CO.

OF NORTH AMERICA

ISSUES BONDS OF SURETYSHIP.

Capital Authorized, - - - - -	\$1,000,000.00
Paid Up in Cash, - - - - -	304,800.00
Resources, over - - - - -	1,400,000.00

HEAD OFFICE—MONTREAL.

EDWARD RAWLINGS, President and Managing Director. **WM. J. WITHALL**, Vice-President.

ROBERT KERR, Secretary and Treasurer.

SELKIRK CROSS, Q.C., Counsel. **RIDDELL & COMMON** Auditors.

CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION

HEAD OFFICE, - TORONTO

PAMPHLETS in either English or French, giving particulars of the Company's Unconditional Accumulative Policy, will be sent on application to the Head Office, or to any of the Company's Agents.

Hon. SIR W. P. HOWLAND, C.B., K.C.M.G., President.
W. C. MACDONALD, Actuary. J. K. MACDONALD, Managing Director.

PROVINCIAL AGENCY STAFF

Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland:	Manitoba and British Columbia:	Ontario and Quebec:
W. GREEN, Manager..... } HALIFAX	D. McDONALD, Inspector... } WINNIPEG	J. TOWER BOYD, Superintendent..... TORONTO
A. ALLISON, Secretary..... }	C. E. KERR, Cashier..... }	H. J. JOHNSTON, Manager..... MONTREAL

F. STANCLIFFE,
Gen. Manager for Canada.
Office, MONTREAL.

FOR SOLE BENEFIT OF
Canadian + Policy + Holders.

GOVERNMENT DEPOSIT, - \$125,000
IN THE HANDS OF TRUSTEES, 632,500

- British Empire - MUTUAL

General Agents Maritime Provinces:
McGhee & Temple,
HALIFAX, N.S.
A. W. SMITH,
General Agent,
TORONTO.

LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY
OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

Assets over \$8,900,000. Income over \$1,380,000.

Federal Life

POLICIES WORLD WIDE

After one year from issue.

Assurance
Company,

Capital and Assets, - - \$1,000,000.00
Surplus to Policyholders, - 704,141.26

Head Office,
HAMILTON, Ont.

ACCUMULATION POLICIES
COMPOUND INVESTMENT POLICIES
GUARANTEED INSURANCE BONDS

JAS. H. BEATTY, - - President. DAVID DEXTER, - Managing Director.