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

Enforcement of the Sixty Day Clause. IT SEEMS to us that the movement of the fire insurance companies to enforce the sixty-day clause, with reference to payment of loss under their policies, is entirely justifiable under present circumstances. The enforced delay in the payment of premiums, consequent on the scarcity of money in the States, works great hardship to the companies, and it is obvious that if "spot cash" is to be paid for losses, the result will be the burning of the candle at both ends. Companies can prudently pay current losses only from current receipts, and cannot be blamed for enforcing the letter of the contract which gives a reasonable time for adjustment and payment. Lightning adjustments and a scramble to see who shall be first to pay a loss have been altogether too common in the past. An honest loss will bear investigation at any time, and a dishonest one certainly requires it, so that, as a rule, even were money plenty, companies for their own protection would be justified in requiring a reasonable time for adjustment and payment.

A Fraudulent Claim Contested. THE CONTEST of a claim, recently, under a policy for £300 by the London and Lancashire Life, was, as the event proved, a very proper thing to do. The trial at the Bristol Assizes before Mr. Justice Day developed the fact that the grossest mis-representation had been made in the application of the assured, one William Broad, a stable hand employed by Mr. Thos. Arthur James at Bristol, and who in a few days after the issue of the policy assigned it to James. This was in April 29th last, and on May 18th Broad died. Among other things the applicant stated that he was 39 years old, was born in Sydney, Australia, that he had no other insurance on his life, that his mother and father were living, and that none of his family had died of consumption or hereditary disease. Evidence at the trial showed that Broad had a policy in the Prudential, assigned also to Mr. James, that he was born at Rotham in Kent, that his mother died in 1872 of consumption, that he had been a soldier in the Egyptian army, and that his father had been dead several years. The fact was established to the satisfaction of the jury that James procured the insurance on speculation, dictating the untrue statements in the application, and a verdict for the defendant company was the result. Claim-resistance in such a case is in every way commendable.

Savings Banks Versus Life Insurance. WE HAVE on several occasions called attention in these columns to the superiority of investment in a life insurance policy over deposits in savings banks, and have demonstrated by figures this superiority. The experiences incidental to the present financial disturbance, so extensive over the border, serve to emphasize the superiority named. Some savings banks have failed outright, and the depositors have lost a considerable portion of their savings, while all of these institutions have been obliged to enforce the sixty days' notice regulation as to the drawing out of deposits in order to prevent an unpleasant "run" on them. Thus, when the pinch comes and the money is needed most, it is unavailable. An endowment policy falling due in any of the leading companies would be paid forthwith, and a policy of almost any kind, not yet matured, could, with a good many companies, be used as good collateral on which to borrow the greater part of its reserve value. In case of the death of the assured, payment to the needy family only waits upon necessary proofs of death. Thus, aside from the absolute *safety* of the insurance investment, in a good company, its immediate availability renders it far more desirable than the savings bank deposit.

Relton's Book On Early Fire Annihilators. WE NOTICE that our New York contemporary, *The Chronicle*, in speaking of the invention of "Fire Annihilators," quotes Cornelius Walford's statement, that Mr. Charles Povey, the founder of the Sun Fire Office, invented a novel machine in 1706, the first of the kind, and of which no description has been left to posterity. It seems that Mr. Walford was very much mistaken as to his dates and facts. The new volume, compiled by Mr. F. B. Relton of the Sun Fire Office, reviewed in our last issue, on the history of fire insurance in Great Britain and Ireland in the 17th and 18th centuries, in giving the unpublished events in the life of Povey, throws a flood of light on the fire annihilator question. The book shows clearly from documents extant that Povey's invention—a kind of bomb charged with gunpowder and water—was brought out in 1723, and not 1706, and that a detailed description (see page 531 of the book) existed. The invention of Ambrose Godfrey, or Gotfrid, perfected at about the same time, is also described, and an interesting account given of the contest between Povey and Godfrey, in the public prints, concerning the merits of their respective machines, with challenges, charges and counter charges between the contestants, after the manner of modern inventors. Pages 524 to 533 of Mr. Relton's book are given to this interesting subject, in which Povey seems to come out ahead. The history of organized bands, under the direction of the early fire insurance offices, for the putting out of fires is also given at some length in the book.

The Warehouse Hazard in Liverpool.

IT IS stated on excellent authority that the warehouse fires in Liverpool during 1892 entailed losses to the insurance companies of more than five times the amount of the premiums received. This would seem to furnish ample justification for the increased rates demanded by the companies on this class of property, and for the requirement that burned warehouses shall be rebuilt with distinct reference to fire-resisting features. The warehouses are divided into three classes, according to hazard of contents, and rates properly graded accordingly. The owners of these buildings are a good deal exercised over the advance in rates and the regulations required, and foolishly talk about organizing an insurance company among themselves. That would doubtless be a good way to convince these people, a little later on, that playing at self-insurance is a very costly experiment, as the same course in some places on this side of the water has abundantly convinced other people before now of the costly nature of this folly.

Politics and Insurance Supervision.

WE BELIEVE that a system of insurance supervision by the State, conducted by honest and capable officials, is a good thing alike for the companies and the public. That too much has, however, as a rule been attempted, and the companies hampered to their injury without any corresponding benefit, is a notorious fact. State legislatures have repeatedly gone beyond the limit of legitimate supervision as a means of securing desirable uniformity in business methods and publicity of reliable statements of condition, and carried the "paternal" idea of direction and control to unbearable lengths. And then, again, unfortunately, State insurance superintendents, under the spoils system of the United States, are seldom appointed because of their special fitness for the duties to be performed, but as a reward of party service. It is refreshing to occasionally find an appointee frank enough to admit this, as in the case of Insurance Commissioner Wilson of California who says: "You know, this position of insurance commissioner is a purely political one. It is not given to me or, in fact, to anyone else because of the knowledge I or they may have of the insurance business. I am an attorney, and as such am supposed to know something about the law relating to insurance companies; but, as I said before, it is purely a political office." Under such a system, efficient supervision must obviously be a good deal of a farce.

Fredericton's Recent Narrow Escape.

THE FIRE at Fredericton, N.B., on the 12th ult., to which we referred in our last issue, will doubtless serve to dispel some of the "self-insurance" illusions heretofore entertained by the good people of that town. In our issue for April 1 we took occasion to note that a project was on foot at Fredericton, to secure authority from the Provincial Legislature for the insuring of property by the city corporation. It was foolishly argued, that inasmuch as people of the city had during nine years received only about $5,000 annually from the insurance companies and had paid in premiums about $18,000, there would be a great saving for the city to become its own insurer. We pointed out the fallacy of such reasoning, inasmuch as any day a big fire might occur, reversing affairs and scoring a balance against the companies. Now, suddenly, a $20,000 fire occurs which, the St. John *Telegraph* says, would have swept the entire town had a stiff breeze been blowing instead of the fortunate calm which existed. With rotten fire hose and defective fire apparatus to work with, it is evident that only good luck or Providence saved the city from a great conflagration. As it is, the insurance companies stand in the gap for about $10,000, which, on the "self-insurance" plan, would have come out of the people's pockets by way of the city treasury. Self-insurance may, in a day, anywhere, be changed to self-destruction.

An Attempted Fraud Checkmated.

A CASE illustrating the wisdom of taking time to investigate even a small fire loss, and also the confidence of certain people that they can easily "beat" an insurance company, came to light in this city the other day. Not very long ago, a French Canadian woman, of the *habitant* class, approached the French agent's desk of a leading English fire company, and applied for insurance on her dwelling and furniture, situated in a parish about thirty miles from Montreal. A detailed description of the property and its location was intelligently given by the woman, a diagram made, and, very naturally, the insurance effected, the amount being for $1,000, for which the regular premium was promptly paid. About a month later, the same woman presented herself, in great apparent distress, saying that the house had burned down and everything excepting the clothes worn by the family destroyed. She pleaded pressing need of the money, and urged immediate payment. When informed, with suitable sympathetic assurances from the agent, that an adjuster would be forthwith sent, with instructions to pay the loss after inspection, the woman waxed indignant at being put off, and offered to take, first $750, then $600, and finally $500, in order to get the money. She was put off, and in the meantime the curé of the parish communicated with. He soon reported that he knew no family of the name given, and further that no fire had occurred in the parish for several months! It is needless to say that the afflicted woman was never heard from again, and the company is ahead the amount of the premium.

AMERICA'S SHARE OF THE FIRE LOSS SUSTAINED BY THE BRITISH COMPANIES.

We have noticed a disposition on the part of the directors at the home offices of some of the British fire insurance companies, not only to complain of the heavy losses of the past year, which may be very natural, but also to attribute the excessive loss largely to the "American business," including, of course, both that of Canada and the United States. The facts, however, are quite otherwise, as a study of last year's reports will show. With reference to the United States business of the British companies, the *Insurance Age* has done some figuring, which it puts into tabular form, showing as the conclusion reached, that while the premium receipts of all the United States branches were 46.91 per cent. of the total premiums collected by the companies on total business, the losses paid by these branches were only 41.54 per cent. of the aggregate losses sustained. In order to make the record complete as to business in this country, we have figured out the results for the British branches in Canada during 1892, using the head office premiums and losses, as stated by the *Age*. Following is the record of the principal companies, excepting the Alliance, whose home office figures are not at hand :—

COMPANY.	Pctg'e. of Can. Prems. to Total Prems.	Pctg'e. of Can. Losses to Total Losses.	Pctg'e. for or against Canadian Branches.
Atlas	5.96	5.38	+ .58
Caledonian	5.61	4.54	+ 1.07
Commercial Union	6.98	7.45	— .47
Albion (Fire Insurance Assoc.)	20.38	26.56	— 6.18
Guardian	12.33	9.36	+ 2.97
Imperial Fire	5.20	3.70	+ 1.50
Lancashire	6.19	5.72	+ .47
Liverpool & London & Globe	3.94	4.17	— .23
London & Lancashire	4.31	3.38	+ .93
London Assurance	4.58	3.73	+ .85
Manchester	4.70	5.25	— .55
National of Ireland	7.63	6.64	+ 1.19
North British & Mercantile	5.18	4.74	+ .44
Northern	4.80	4.23	+ .57
Norwich Union	2.76	2.69	+ .07
Phœnix of London	4.50	3.19	+ 1.31
Royal	5.58	5.13	+ .45
Scottish Union & National	7.41	8.44	— 1.03
Sun Insurance Office	.72	.23	+ .49
Union Assurance Soc	7.95	6.57	+ 1.38
Totals	5.25	4.78	+ .47

+ For. — Against

If we compare the total premiums and losses, respectively, of the above companies on the entire business in head office reports with the combined premiums and losses of the United States and Canadian branches, we find the following :—

1892.	Total Premiums.	U.S. & Canadian Premiums.	Percentage of latter to former.
	$76,714,776	$39,187,241	51.08
1892.	**Total Losses.**	**U.S. & Canadian Losses.**	**Percentage of latter to former.**
	$52,589,176	$25,709,578	48.88

Thus we find, that while Canada and the United States collected 51.08 per cent. of the entire premiums, they paid but 48.88 of the total losses—a difference in favor of the latter of 2.20 per cent. If, further, we deduct from total premiums and losses of the above companies those of the Canadian and United States branches, and figure the relative percentage of losses paid to premiums received, we get the following results :—

1892.	Total Premiums Home Offices.	Total Losses Home Offices.	Loss Ratio.
	$76,714,776	$52,589,176	71.62
1892.	**Total Premiums U. S. & Can.**	**Total Losses U.S. & Can.**	**Loss Ratio.**
	$39,187,241	$25,709,578	65.60

It appears, therefore, that, considered separately, the losses paid to premiums received by the above British companies on their total business, excluding the United States and Canada, was 71.62 per cent. as compared with the combined business of the latter, with a ratio of 65.60 per cent., a difference of six per cent. Comment on these plain facts would seem to be unnecessary, further than to remind some of our good friends across the water, including some insurance journals, who are fond of talking about "excessive American losses," that the boot is on the other leg, and that bad as the results of last year have been over here, they have been worse elsewhere. The results for the current year look anything but hopeful, and only emphasize the warning so often repeated that the remedy of increased rates cannot be too soon applied throughout the entire field.

WORKING EXPENSES IN LIFE INSURANCE.

The high-pressure methods and the intense strife for new business prevailing for some time past among the life insurance companies of the United States—or, at least, a majority of them—begin to produce the inevitable results foreseen and repeatedly predicted by prudent men. The granting of enormous commissions and extravagant bonuses to agents, knowing that they would be largely used to buy business on the rebate plan, has demonstrated the truthfulness of the language of a noted life insurance president, uttered nearly a year ago, that "rate-cutting cuts dangerously near the bone." Extravagant expenditure, to enable each company to "get there" ahead of its rivals, has gone on for three or four years, until now, in the light of some very unwelcome facts created by rebating—the synonym of rate cutting—the officers of one of the largest companies and the executives of several other strong ones have made common cause, and issued a decree that "rebating must cease." Unless forced to hold a contrary opinion by further developments, we shall believe all these gentlemen to be sincere in their utterances, and that they purpose the adoption and enforcement of heroic measures, if need be, for the permanent sheathing of the rebate knife which cuts so "dangerously near the bone." As a tonic, calculated to still further strengthen the laudable purpose of the reforming officials, we have thought it well to present in a condensed form from the official reports the steady climbing up of the expense of life insurance management in the United States for the past thirty years. We have consulted the New York Reports, and base our conclusions on the experience there recorded of the companies, as a whole, excluding, however, the industrial companies. And first, as to general management expense to total income. In this expense we have included, as compared with total income from all sources, all expenditures, excepting such as have been incurred on policy account, such as death claims, endowments, surrendered policies, dividends on policies, etc. We give results for five-year periods as follows :—

Year.	Total Income.	Total Expenses.	Ratio.
1862	$ 7,440,491	$ 871,867	11.72
1867	56,481,997	9,480,443	16 78
1872	117,306,029	18,006,861	15.35
1877	86,162,144	13,327,565	15.46
1882	85,070,134	13,338,788	15.67
1887	123,629,820	22,349,836	18.12
Total....	$476,090,615	$77,375,360	16.25

This is the record for twenty-five years. Going back, however, to 1859, the date of the first of the New York insurance reports, and making a total average down to 1887, we find as follows :—

29 Years.	Total Income.	Total Expense.	Ratio.
1859 to 1887	$ 1,734,589,860	$ 273,004,920	15.73

As will be seen, expenses in 1887, five years ago, began to increase, and have moved upward until, in 1892, we have an average ratio of 20.12, against the average of 16.25 for the above 25 years. The record for each of the past five years is as follows :—

Year.	Total Income.	Total Expense.	Ratio.
1888	$ 138,458,050	$ 25,669,712	18.54
1889	158,659,960	31,174,291	19.65
1890	175,381,318	35,255,311	20.10
1891	187,935,560	37,629 712	20.03
1892	198,667,954	39,961,461	20.12

It thus appears that in ten years the average ratio of expense has increased almost five per cent. for all the companies, while, if the records of certain individual companies of leading positions were considered alone, the increase would be found to be greater That this increase is due to agency expense will appear from the following comparisons of the expense on agency account to total premiums for three periods :—

Year.	Total Premiums.	Agency Expense.	Ratio.
1884	$ 70,529,158	$ 7,766,980	11.12
1887	93,933,550	12,589,943	13 29
1892	137,808,116	22,014,975	15 98

Now, here is an increase in commissions and agency expenses in eight years of nearly five per cent., and since 1887 of more than two and a-half on more than a hundred millions of premiums. And the increase of agency expense to *new premiums* has been a good deal larger than to *total premiums*, showing where the increasing burden belongs. This will appear on further examination. Now, if we allow five per cent. on all-around renewal premiums as a legitimate charge belonging to agency expense, we think we shall be making a very liberal allowance, for we doubt if the average renewal commission now reaches that figure. In 1887 the renewal premiums amounted to $69,525,957, and the new premiums to $24,407,593. Deducting 5 per cent. on the renewals from the total agency expense of the year, which expense was $12,589,943, and we have remaining $9,113,646 commission and agency expense of getting the $24,407,593, of new premiums, or 37.34 per cent. Treating 1892 in like manner, and we get the following comparison for the two periods :—

Year.	New Premiums.	Share of Agency Expense on New Prems.	Ratio.
1887	$ 24,407,593	$ 9,113,646	37.34
1892	33,345,311	15,801,839	47.38

Here, then, we have since 1887, soon after which the great strain for "big business" commenced to intensify, an increase of about ten per cent. in the commissions and agency expense of getting new business. That the business of life insurance will not stand such an increasing mortgage on its resources is, we think, finding pretty general recognition, and that in some influential quarters there is a disposition to get back to a safe and legitimate ratio of expense is a hopeful sign of the times. Agents begin to realize that their own interest, as a matter of dollars and cents, lies in accepting from the companies such compensation as can safely be allowed, and *getting the benefit of it themselves*, instead of getting an enormous commission and giving away half or two-thirds of it! We are aware that the actual expense of getting new business stands at a higher average than the above, but owing to generalizations in the statements of many companies, by which certain agency expenses are hidden, we can only treat with definite figures as stated. For the purpose of comparison, however, the above figures tell a true story.

THEFT AT AND AFTER FIRES.

The following query has been propounded to us, and an opinion upon the subject requested :

Will you kindly inform the writer as to the liability of the Insurance Company where goods were stolen during the progress of a fire in a building wherein the stock of a country store was insured ; one of the conditions of the policy was as follows : "Not liable for loss by theft at or after a fire." After the fire, quite an amount of the stock was missing, which evidently had not been burned. Would the insurers be liable for such missing property?

In response to our querist, we would say that "losses by theft at and after a fire" constitute a very perplexing question for the adjuster, because of the difficulty of ascertaining just what portions of a stock may have been burned and what were stolen. The probable amount of stolen property at fires will depend materially upon the kinds of property at risk, and the facility with which it can be concealed . d carried off, undetected, and the vigilance of the police force and owners at the time of the fire. Large amounts are fre quently thus stolen out of broken stocks, as clothing, boots and shoes, and such like, and especially in cases of liquor and cigar stocks, which everybody seems to look upon as public property, and to help themselves accordingly. In the days of volunteer fire departments the firemen were accustomed to help themselves freely to anything that they could find. We call to mind two cases, out of many, where this helping themselves. free of cost, occurred: One was at the burning of a large shoe factory, where the firemen took a large quantity of shoes for themselves and families; and the other in the city of Chicago, where a rubber goods store had been burned; among the salvage were some rubber over-coats, to which several of the firemen helped themselves *ad libitum* On trying on the coat one of the firemen found it too small for him, and coolly carried it back to the store and asked the proprietor to exchange it for a larger one! The coolness of the request provoked a ready compliance instead of arrest for the theft. Under the paid fire department rules, such appropriations of property are strictly forbidden, and guilty parties are now dismissed from the force.

Under the insurance contract guaranteeing indemnity to the insured, the law holds that when the peril insured against is the *proximate* or nearest cause of the loss, the insurers are chargeable therefor This though true as a general principle of law is subject to modifications by the terms of the policy itself. In the early marine and fire policies no provisions are to be found relative to theft. In the marine branch the captain and crew were held liable for any ordinary theft (or baratry) of property on board the vessel. Under the fire policy of the present day, such losses are paid for as proximately the result of fire, unless the restrictive clause, above quoted in the query, be found therein.

Prior to the introduction of that restrictive clause, all losses arising from bona fide efforts to extinguish the flames, such as wetting or soiling the goods, or theft at fires, or damage in removal of unburned property from the burning premises, were held to be fairly within the contract of insurance, and the insurers were liable therefor; the doctrine being that damage by water thrown upon the goods to extinguish the flames, and losses by plunder of goods removed from the building, and so put beyond the control of the owner and never restored, were incidental to, or consequent upon, the fire, and that such losses, although not a necessity, were nevertheless a natural consequence of the peril insured against—by natural, meaning usual and probable consequence—and as such, it is reasonable to believe, within the contemplation of the parties when the contract was made.

Under the limitation clause of the policy that "the insurer would not be liable for losses by theft at and after a fire," it has been held that this clause was independent of the one usually following, to the effect that the "insured should use all diligence in the removal and preservation of the property; and in case of any failure on his part so to do, the company would not be liable for loss or damage sustained in consequence of such neglect, and such loss by theft was caused by removal of goods in compliance with such last clause." And where the policy contained this clause, and goods were removed by advice of the fire warden, held: "An insurer is not liable for goods stolen in transit from a building, because the fire warden advised such removal of the property."

Much more might be said upon this interesting subject, but inasmuch as the "Fire Underwriters Text Book" (page 653, Section 1771, and following) covers the entire ground with legal authorities upon every point, we defer further comment here, and advise a reference to that elaborate work for further information.

MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS OF INSURER AND INSURED IN LIFE INSURANCE CONTRACTS.

Trusteeships in connection with the beneficial interest under life insurance policies are not generally deemed advisable, and lawyers recommend the avoidance of them whenever the intent of the insured can just as well be carried out in some other form. In many cases where the interest under life policies has been vested in a trustee for minor children, specifying, with more or less definiteness, the object, purpose or intent of the trust, annoying complications have arisen tending to defeat in some measure the probable original wishes of the insured, or to work a delay annoying to all parties. Sometimes conflicting opinions are held by interpreters of their legal effect, as to the specific nature of the trust intended. Sometimes by the death of a trustee, immediately before or after, or contemporaneously with the death of the insured, the money designed for minor orphan children may be almost indefinitely bound up by legal technicalities, and by the delays incident to the conforming with legal requirements and satisfying legal exactions. We do not know that the slightest necessity exists for these Trusts in the form in which they have proved to be most objectionable; and certainly in most cases they involve delay and legal friction enough to largely, if not almost entirely, defeat the will of their maker. Life policies are safely issuable in favor of minor children by name, or to all or any number of the surviving children, either of the insured, or of his wife, or of both of them. In the event of death of the insured under a policy payable to minor children, the proceeds are directly available to the order of the legally constituted guardian of the children; and in most localities the insured has the power of appointment of such guardian as will be entirely satisfactory to him. This method is surely preferable to the creation of a trust, about which the legal mind conceives that two opinions may exist as to the nature, intent and scope.

Only about one-half of the number of life insurance companies doing business in Canada and the United States encourage the solicitation of applications for insurance on the lives of women. Generally the requirement is that they must be married women, who have passed successfully through the danger of childbearing, and who are not pregnant at the time of making application for the insurance. In cases of female risks, very particular attention is paid by the companies to beneficial interest. It is usually an indispensable requisite that the person or persons in whose favor the policy is desired shall be financially dependent, wholly or in part, upon the applicant. Children—and more especially female children and minors—are recognized as being in the relation of a legitimate insurable interest. The strongest possible insurable interest in all cases is where the beneficiary has a financial stake in the life proposed for insurance.

We think that we have now fully covered the question of beneficial interest—at least to the extent of meeting and considering such points as usually arise in this particular connection; and we recommend it to the attention of intending insurers as a matter of very great importance that should be carefully considered in all its bearings, so that their wishes with respect to the proceeds of their life insurance may be exactly carried out.

We will now take up the question of "kind" and "amount" of insurance to be applied for. As to the "kind," we deem it fairest to let the competing agents of the various companies plead their own causes, and they may certainly be fully trusted to wax eloquent in behalf of the pet plans of their own companies and to secure attention to every good point and feature they possess.

There are dozens of plans known by various names, but not differing essentially from dozens of other plans known by other names. Slight variations in points of greater or less importance are deemed sufficient to justify a new name, which is blazoned forth to the insuring world with a great flourish of trumpets; but it is generally found that the new plan for which such unprecedented advantages are claimed is simply one of the old standard forms of insurance or endowment, decked out in a little new finery, and described in all the gradations of flowery and seductive language. We doubt very much whether the past twenty-five years of the stupendous growth of life insurance and life insurance companies have witnessed the introduction of half a dozen essentially *new* plans of insurance. Modifications and variations innumerable there have been, but very little actually *new*, very little that we had not really seen before, very little that could justly be claimed to be superior to the old, timed-tried and reliable plans of thirty and forty years ago. Harsh regulations have been toned down and abolished. Technicalities have been obliterated; liberality has won the day, but the old plans remain the standards of the present time.

Of the old plans we will mention first the cheapest of all—that is, the cheapest for *initial* cost,—the Term Plan. Term policies may be written covering the risk of death only and generally for a period of 10, 15 or 20 years, at the end of which time the policy ceases just like a fire insurance policy that has expired. The insured has paid the cost of carrying his risk, and his money has been earned by the contribution to the current death losses of the company. Some companies issue these policies with participation in profits, and extend to the insured the privilege of renewal from term to term, by payment of an adjusted premium rate for each term.

Next in order of cheapness comes the Ordinary Life Plan, which may be available under either participating or non-participating rates. The premium is payable as long as the insured lives, and the policy can only mature by the death of the life insured. Limited Payment Life Policies are the same as Ordinary Life Policies, except that the premium-paying period is commuted into 5, 10, 15, 20 or some other stated period of years.

Endowment Policies not only provide for maturity at the death of the insured, but they become claims upon the expiration of a fixed number of years, when, if the insured be living, the amount of the policy becomes immediately payable. Endowment premiums may also be commuted into a shorter term of years than the endowment period itself.

Joint Life Policies are contracts issued on the lives of two or more persons, and are payable to the survivor or survivors, upon the occurrence of the death of any one of the insured.

These are really the standard plans of long ago, the plans upon which the advantageous policy-forms of to-day are based. The special features so attractively advertised are usually variations of the dividend or participating function, but a critical examination of them is really outside of our present purpose, and has no particular bearing upon the subject of these discussions. We will, therefore, leave the intending insurer to glean what light he can from the able *life solicitors* whom he may know, and in our next article we will pass on to the question of "Amount of Insurance," which is one of the most important of all the questions the applicant has to determine.

THE CALEDONIAN INSURANCE COMPANY.

Growth, and upon safe lines of procedure, has become the characteristic of the Caledonian, the oldest among the Scottish insurance companies now in the field. That the total funds of the company have increased nearly three millions of dollars in six years indicates the forward strides made. It is well known that the Caledonian does a considerable and very satisfactory life assurance business, now having a life and annuity fund of more than five and a half million dollars and a premium income in 1892 of over seven hundred thousand dollars; but it is mainly with the fire branch of the business that our readers are interested. It is here that the large increase has been apparent. In 1889 the fire premium income was a little over $635,000, in 1890 it increased to $1,157,945, advanced further in 1891 to $1,313,270, and in 1892 reached the large total of $2,017,080. Against this premium income were current losses in 1892 for $1,315,135, or a little over 65 per cent. of the premiums. As compared with the loss ratio generally sustained by the companies in 1892, this is a satisfactory showing, for, as is well known, heavy losses have been the universal experience. It should, however, be stated, that, under the arrangement made last year with the Niagara Fire of New York, by which the Caledonian assumed a share of the former's risks, premiums to the amount of more than $482,000 were received, which are not included in the above premium income. A part of the total losses reported above, however, were on account of this business, so that if the premiums from the Niagara are included, the loss ratio falls to about 53 per cent. We notice also that a decrease of the expense ratio of about 2 per cent. has taken place, the ratio for 1892 being, on the $2,017,080 of premiums, 35.9 per cent.

Glancing at the fire branch accounts, we find that there was brought over from the previous year a balance of $192,140. The current net income was: from premiums (including Niagara), $2,499,750; from interest and dividends, $96,557; total, $2,788,447. The losses paid were $1,315,135; commissions and expenses, $686,155; taxes and other expenses, $39,179; total, $2,040,469, leaving a balance of income over expenditure of $747,978. From this, $334,283 was carried to profit and loss account and $413,695 added to the premium reserve fund, bringing that fund up to $913,695. The total fire funds, including capital, now amount to upwards of $2,800,000, while the company's total assets are $9,084,700. Of the Canadian management of the Caledonian, we have spoken more than once approvingly, and need only here add, that under the direction of Mr. Lansing Lewis, Dominion manager, the results for 1892 have been very favorable, the loss rato—54.7 per cent.—having been considerably below the average experienced by the companies, as a whole. A safe rather than a big business seems to have been sought, though risks written to the amount of over eleven and a half millions in 1892 would indicate a commendable degree of activity. The confidence of the public in the Caledonian rests on a sure foundation.

PANICS AND THE MORAL HAZARD.

In our last issue we printed what United States Manager Beddall of the Royal had to say on the above subject, and herewith we give the views on the same subject of United States Manager Jeffrey Beavan of the London and Lancashire, as stated in the *Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin* of New York.—

While I do not particularly desire to be quoted as taking the opposite side of the question to that from which my friend Mr. Beddall has discussed, the influence of moral hazard in times of commercial depression, and which is logically correct and upon a sound basis of reasoning, I am of the opinion that a very large section of the community, and principally retail dealers and ordinary storekeepers generally, throughout the country, are not gifted with that standard of sound reasoning for which he credits them, and that if the direct moral hazard be not intensified, carelessness and indifference—its twin sisters, and unquestionably of the moral hazard order—are so much the more rife in periods of financial stringency and commercial depression as to operate to the material disadvantage and prejudice of the companies. The average rate of premium, taken also with due regard to the average duration of the policies issued, was approximately the same in 1892 as in the previous year 1891, yet the incidence of loss was appreciably heavier; while for the current year, with a steady advance in rates, coupled with a limitation—in some sections, at all events—of the classes upon which term insurances are now granted, the record thus far, as published from time to time in your valuable paper, indicates, as I believe, a larger incidence of loss to sums insured than in any previous similar period not more largely affected by conflagration fires. I believe that, as in the case of my own company, investigation will disclose that the companies generally have sustained in 1892 and in 1893, a larger percentage of fires from "unknown" causes, and in the aggregate an increased number also of garnisheed or attached claims, than in the average of, say, the previous five years.

During periods of prosperity the physical hazard of manufacturing plants, and of various other classes, is doubtless enhanced by the pressure for production, etc. So also in times of depression I am of the opinion that indirectly, by carelessness and indifference, the moral hazard is even more largely influenced to the prejudice of the companies. In my judgment, the question does not necessarily involve, and certainly not in any appreciable degree, the consideration of incendiary hazard.

THE MUTUAL RESERVE FUND DISSECTED.

From a very complete and exhaustive analysis of the accounts of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life of New York, found in the *Finance Chronicle* of London for August 1st, we lay before our readers the following "meaty" extracts:—

From the association's prospectus, even a very careful reader would conclude that the amount each policyholder in the Mutual Reserve Fund can be called upon to contribute for expenses of management is fixed—viz., a fixed fee at entrance, varying with the amount of assurance; and subsequent annual dues at a fixed rate for every £100 assured. He would also conclude that the entire cost of management is defrayed out of these fixed contributions. Now, the accounts of the company reveal the fact, that, during every year after the second of its history, the actual expenses of management have exceeded the sums received as entrance fees and annual dues. It is also true, that during the twelve years the company has been in existence it collected from its members in fees and dues £1,069,306, while it actually spent in management charges £1,296,123. The latter, therefore, exceeded the former by £226,817. This excess alone absorbed the whole interest received during these twelve years (£109,543) and the sum of £117,274 in addition. From what source was this excess (£226,817) provided? It was paid from the "mortuary calls" or net premiums. In terms of the constitution and Bye-Laws of the company, the cost of collection of the mortuary calls and the "adjustment" of death claims (whatever the latter may mean) is charged against, or deducted from, the mortuary calls. The cost of conducting the business of the Mutual Reserve Fund is thus not fixed, as intending assurers would certainly gather from its prospectus. The *minimum* cost is represented by the scale of entrance fees and annual dues; but the *actual* cost will exceed this by just so much more as the management may find it necessary to withdraw from the mortuary funds for "cost of collection of the mortuary calls and adjustment of the death claims." This excess expenditure has been as follows during the last six years:—

Year	Mortuary calls	Expenses exceeded fees and dues by		
	£			
1887	40[illegible],038	£27,955=6.9	per cent. of	mortuary calls
1888	446,324	26,928=6.0	"	"
1889	515,773	30,775=6 0	"	"
1890	548,879	36,033=6 6	"	"
1891	580,790	40,264=6.9	"	"
1892	633,696	37,673+ 5.9	"	"

The actual expenses are thus absorbing over 6 per cent. of the mortuary calls, or net premiums, in addition to the whole of the entrance fees and annual dues, or loading. The Insurance Superintendent of one of the States had occasion a few years ago to refer to this very subject in the following terms: "The company advertised that all expenses of management are confined to receipts outside of money paid for the liquidation of death claims. An examination of the report for 1887 shows that about $136,000 of the money paid on mortuary calls was used for expenses. This is explained by a clause in the constitution of the company which allows the money to be so used; but the fact was totally unknown to the department until that defence was necessary, while a claim very opposite is continually set forth by the company."

It is asserted by the management of the Mutual Reserve Fund that its expenses of management are upon an unusually moderate scale. From col (15) of the above table it will be seen that last year the cost of working absorbed 27.6 per cent. of the gross premium income, and that the ratio has been steadily increasing for some years. This measure of the cost of management may not be strictly fair in the case of an office like the Mutual Reserve Fund charging very low premiums. A more satisfactory method in such a case is to measure the expenses against the mean amount of assurance in force, as was done in the first edition of "Facts," and will be repeated in a table in the new edition. The results during the last six years have been as follows:—

Year.	Average sums assured during year.	Premiums.	Expenses.	Ratio of expenses. To every £1,000 of premiums	To every £1,000 assured
	£	£	£	£	£ s d.
1887	31,950,900	493,121	114,018	231	3 11 4
1888	33,901,700	552,905	133,509	241	3 18 9
1889	36,485,500	631,691	148,693	235	4 1 6
1890	39,412,600	684,671	171,825	251	4 7 2
1891	42,938 500	740,476	199,950	270	4 13 2
1892	47,044,700	822,736	226,713	276	4 16 5

From each point of view the expenses of the company are seen to be steadily increasing, and forming as they did last year a charge of £276 on every £1000 of premiums, or £4 16*s.* 5*d.* on every £1,000 assured, are far in excess of the cost of working in leading British level premium companies. In a recent article we had occasion to give these two measures of the expenses of four progressive mutual offices, and it was shown that their whole cost of management formed a charge of under £110 on every £1,000 of premiums, or barely £3. 2*s.* on every £1,000 assured. The claims to phenomenal economy in administration so noisily put forward by the Mutual Reserve Fund, have thus no foundation in fact. It is demonstrated by the foregoing figures that the expenses charged against every £1,000 assured were last year more than 50 per cent. greater in the Mutual Reserve Fund than in leading British offices.

WHAT CLASS JOURNALS HAVE ACCOMPLISHED.

At the recent congress of newspaper men, in connection with the World's Columbian Exposition, a paper was read on the relation of trade journals to the general press, from which we quote the following forcible extract, only sorry that the data before us fails to give the author's name. The remarks, of course, apply even more forcibly to insurance journals than to strictly trade journals, not only because of the magnitude and diversity of interest involved, but because of the scientific questions belonging especially to the domain of life insurance. We quote:—

During the last half century, the representative journal has done more to stimulate trade and encourage invention than any other one influence extant in the land. Suited to the wants of a class, it is but natural that it should be looked to for information in all that pertains to the business of that class. The latest money-saving invention, a demand for which is inculcated by the utterances of the class journal, has given employment to the machine shop and to numberless artisans in the invention and manufacture of improved machinery, which, perchance, would not have been thought of, at least for many years, but for a perception of its need and worth made manifest through the medium of the trade journals. It has been the handmaid of the railroads and the telegraph, and the worthy coadjutator of the daily and weekly press in making known the advantages and the needs of various sections, and their adaptability to certain lines of enterprise. It has unified the dealers of each class of business, bringing them to a perception of the advantages growing out of association and combination of action. It has broadened the field of commercial activity, and developed resources which lay like hidden jewels awaiting discovery and the polish of deft hands. It has accomplished a work in months which the daily and weekly secular press would not have developed in a generation It is a force in the mechanical and manufacturing world, fully equal, if not superior, to that of the secular press of the political world. It does not and is not intended to vie with the daily of the city or the weekly newspaper of the country, in the dissemination of the general news of the day, but as a guide to the artisan, the manufacturer, the mechanic, to all whose commercial interests are involved in the branch of commercial life to which the individual trade journal is devoted; it is, if wisely conducted, immeasurably the superior of all other influences for insuring the dissemination of all needful truth and knowledge regarding that industry. What the daily press is to the politician, the magazine is to the man of letters, the commercial bulletin to the speculator, in a great measure is the well conducted trade journal to the inventor and machinist, and all others whose prosperity is sought by its promulgation.

Financial and Statistical.

A considerable amount of gold has been received from England by the Canadian banks recently. During last week the Canadian Bank of Commerce received $620,000; the Bank of Montreal, $310,000: Merchant's Bank, $275,000; Bank of Toronto, $250,000. This makes a total for the four banks of $1,455,000.

It is estimated that, since May 1, about $200,000,000 measures the shrinkage of bank deposits in the United States. About $135,000,000 in loans have been withdrawn from circulation by the banks. Of the falling off in deposits, New York reports about $30,000,000, Boston over $21,000,000, Chicago $15,000,000, Philadelphia $16,000,000, and Pittsburg $6,000,000. The influx of $30,000,000 in gold from Europe recently, and the increase in bank circulation of several millions, have relieved the stringency somewhat.

There is a pretty fair prospect, according to the *British Columbia Commercial Journal*, that the city of Victoria will purchase a half interest in the Esquimault Water Works Company, paying $200,000 for one-half the stock. The city would from this plan own and control its own service, as now, paying the company of which it would be joint owner at six cents per 1,000 gallons. It is figured out that, besides securing an ample supply, the city, after paying all expenses, would realize about 12½ per cent. on its investment.

Canada makes an excellent display of cotton goods as it does of almost everything else at the Fair. In two large cases, each 75 by 20, are the exhibits of the leading cotton manufacturers of the Dominion. They embrace sheetings, shirtings, prints, ginghams, webbing, bindings, tickings, dairy cloths, flannels, and nearly every kind of fabric made in this country of Great Britain. The Montreal Company, whose works are at Valleyfield, show as many kinds of goods as are produced in any establishment in this country or Great Britain, and to all appearance they are of excellent quality.—*Journal of Commerce*, New York.

Preliminary statistics of United States foreign trade in merchandise and produce for the fiscal year 1892-93 show a grand total during the twelve months ending June 30 last of $1,772,238,329, a decrease of approximately $70,800,000, or 3.8 per cent as compared with the year ending June 30, 1892, due largely to decreases in values of breadstuffs and cotton exported last year. The total value of domestic exports last year was $830,876,908, a falling away as compared with the year before of $184,800,000, or 18 per cent. The value of imports of articles free of duty was $519,520,306, an increase of $61,500,000, or 13 per cent., while that of dutiable importations was $421,841,115, an increase of $52,400,000, or 14 per cent.

At a meeting of the shareholders of the defunct Commercial Bank of Manitoba at Winnipeg, recently, Mr. Duncan MacArthur, ex-president, said of the bank: "It was abundantly solvent, and there was no good reason for its suspension. Knowing every particular of its business, as I do, and as no one else does, I am prepared to state without hesitation, that under judicious liquidation the note-holders and depositors will not only be paid in full, but that the shareholders will receive three-fourths of their money at least; and this is on the supposition that the amount for which the late manager, Mr. R. T. Rokeby, is liable turns out to be a total loss, which may not be the case."

We have received a neat little volume by Mr. Richard P. Rothwell, editor of the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, entitled "Universal Bi-Metalism," which comes as a timely contribution to the literature of the subject treated. On its historic side this book is valuable, for it gives in condensed form a record of the world's monetary systems and ample statistics of gold, silver, etc., and their use for a considerable period of time, making it a hand book of ready information well covering the field surveyed. Mr. Rothwell advocates an international clearing house system, and whatever may be thought of his theories, they will be read with general interest. The book is published by the Scientific Publishing Company, New York, and the price is 75 cents.

The annual report for 1892 of the loan companies and building societies of Canada, compiled by Mr. N. S. Garland, clerk of financial statistics, embraces 70 of the 90 societies, the former number only reporting. The subscribed capital of the 70 societies was $86,091,928, and the paid up capital $35,097,101. The total assets were $130,126,400 and the total liabilities $129-036,196. The dividends declared during the year amounted to $2,516,665, being over 7 per cent. on the paid up capital, while the cash on hand and in bank was $3,577 256. The amount loaned during the year was $23,762,738, and the amount of loans current at the close of the year $113,659,640. The amount invested and secured by mortgage deeds was $108,516,738, and the value of real estate under mortgage $261,589,230. The estimated value of mortgaged property held for sale was $4,311,842, and the amount chargeable against said property $3,951,004. The amount loaned in 1892 was $3,744,802 more than in 1891.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE CHARTERED BANKS IN CANADA.

Assets.	31st July, 1893.	30th June, 1893.	31st July, 1892.	Increase and Decrease for month.		Increase and Decrease for year.	
Specie and Dominion Notes	$19,205,204	$18,547,669	$18,738,012	Inc.	$657,535	Inc.	$467,192
Notes of and Cheques on other Banks	8,554,319	7,333,408	6,446,581	Inc.	1,220,911	Inc.	2,107,738
Due from American Banks and Branches	15,616,213	17,331,728	22,272,589	Dec.	1,715,515	Dec.	6,656,376
Due from British Banks and Branches	3,860,549	1,587,320	1,890,992	Inc	2,273,229	Inc.	1,969,557
Canadian Municipal Securities and Brit., Prov. or For'gn. or Colonial other than Dominion	9,257,519	8,985,524	8,773,916	Inc.	271,995	Inc.	483,603
Railway Securities	5,823,083	5,801,724	7,871,646	Inc.	21,359	Dec.	2,048,563
Loans on Stocks and Bonds on Call	15,141,457	14,880,373	15,910,932	Inc.	261,084	Dec.	769,475
Current Loans to the Public	206,937,558	208,793,415	189,513,321	Dec.	1,855,857	Inc.	17,424,237
Overdue debts	2,856,682	2,326,010	2,317,318	Inc.	530,672	Inc.	539,364
Total Assets	304,428,029	304,363,580	291,345,285	Inc.	64,449	Inc.	13,082,744
Liabilities.							
Bank notes in Circulation	33,573,468	33,483,413	32,488,718	Inc.	90,055	Inc.	1,084,750
Due to Dominion Government	2,757,991	4,320,333	2,354,152	Dec.	1,562,342	Inc.	403,839
Due to Provincial Governments	3,976,518	2,866,508	3,923,366	Inc.	1,110,010	Inc.	5',152
Deposits made by the public	171,021,734	170,817,433	160,308,445	Inc.	204,301	Inc.	10,713,289
Do payable on demand or after notice between Bks.	2,616,681	2,503,558	2,905,610	Inc.	113,123	Dec.	288,929
Due to American Banks and Branches	124,796	210,628	258,607	Dec.	85,832	Dec.	133,811
Due to British Banks and Branches	4,600,301	4,751,476	4,920,914	Dec	151,175	Dec.	320,613
Total Liabilities	219,319,527	219,666,996	207,783,253	Dec.	347,469	Inc.	11,536,274
Capital.							
Capital paid up	61,954,773	61,954,314	61,597,484	Inc.	459	Inc.	357,289
Reserve Fund	26,031,245	26,007,668	24,756,731	Inc.	23,577	Inc.	1,274,514
Directors' Liabilities	7,808,506	7,538,290	6,669,218	Inc.	270,216	Inc.	1,139,288

Deposits with Dominion Government for security of note circulation being 5 p.c. on average maximum Circulation for year ending 30th June, 1893, $1,827,267.

THE JULY BANK STATEMENT.

So much is being said by the press throughout the country in relation to the state of trade in canada, that it would almost seem superfluous to touch upon the subject, but we think the readers of the CHRONICLE are entitled to our conclusions based upon facts in relation to the banks and other monetary institutions in Canada. In the Bank Statement for July, we find every indication that trade is holding its own. The amo unt of ready money in the hands of the public is large for this season of the year, especially as trade in some branches is claimed to be inactive and that products are selling at low prices. Our abstract, as given elsewhere, deals very effectually with the statement for the month under review, giving comparisons for month and year. We may, therefore, be permitted to diverge and undertake a brief review of other monetary institutions. Financial journals and others which do not lay claims to great powers of criticism upon that subject have written unsparingly upon the annual report of the Post office and Government savings banks, some attempting to detract from the improved condition, others again trying to give the credit of success to the present administration. We give the facts and let our readers draw their own conclusions. We have now before us a statement as on July 31st, 1893, of Deposits of the people held on that date.

	31st July, '93.	31st July, '92.	31st July, '83.
Chartered Bks......	$171,021,734	$160,308,445	$99,241,325
P O.S.B.$24,443,609 / Gov.S.B. 17,760,808	42,204,417	*39,616,986	*26,521,100
Loan Co. Dep., 31st Dec., 1892.........	19,392,165	18,482,958	13,954,460
Savings Banks Prov. of Quebec.........	12,918,960	12,360,095	8,878,405
Totals.........	$245,537,276	$230,768,484	$148,595,290
		*P O. 22,458,364 / Gov. 17,158,622	*P.O. 12,130,300 / Gov. 14,390,800

Add to this the anticipated savings held by 20 loan companies the names of which are given in the Government reports as not having sent returns, and we are justified in believing that the amount of increase would be over the 100 millions, or an average increase of about ten millions a year—this, we think, speaks well for the frugality and thrift of the people of the Dominion.

Increase 1893 over 1892, $14,768,792.
Increase 1893 over 1883, $96,941,986.

Nor does this successful showing apply to any one portion of the Dominion, but is universally distributed from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

A word in relation to the report of loan companies. It is to all appearances a carefully compiled report of the information received, but why should there be absent the transactions of the 20 companies before referred to?

A reason is given by the compiler, but is not, we think, a sufficient one. Should not the Dominion Government assume the complete control as of the banks? These institutions have become too important a factor in the business of the country to be permitted to play fast and loose as they may think proper. If necessary pass an Act compelling the companies, no matter from what source they may obtain their charters, to report to the government, and in order that such report may be reliable, instructions should be laid down as to what said report shall contain, and strict supervision should be observed to see that the law is enforced. Much is written as to the increase in the amount under mortgage. We trust the managers to see that they get ample security for the investment, and, therefore, there must be an advance in the values, in order to obtain the loan, which shows an improvement all along the line. The fact has been drawn out that the farmer has reversed his position by at present being a borrower to the extent of 25 per cent. of the amount, the urban population being the borrowers of the other 75 per cent. In the past, say 15 years ago, the same ratio existed, but the occupations of the borrowers were reversed.

Notes and Items.

A Baltimore grand jury has indicted Mr. J. Henry Grimmell, a solicitor in that city of the Mutual Life of New York, for violation of the anti-rebate law of the State.

The insurance commissioner of North Dakota heads off wildcat companies by posting placards throughout the State, giving a list of authorized companies.

We are under obligations to Insurance Commissioner Landers for Part I of the Rhode Island Insurance Report for 1892.

The City of Nanaimo, B.C., has passed a by-law taxing "wholesale traders" $20 per year for doing business, and includes insurance companies among "wholesale traders."

The new office building of the Mutual Life of New York at San Francisco, nine stories in height, recently completed, is a very fine fire-proof structure, as described by the *Coast Review*.

The twenty-fifth annual report of the Illinois Insurance Department, being Parts I and II and covering the business of 1893, has reached us through the courtesy of the new superintendent, Hon. B. K. Durfee

The fire insurance premiums received in New York city for the six months ending June 30th, as reported to the Fire Patrol, amounted to $4,885,426, against $4,382,111 for the corresponding period in 1892.

From the Argus office, Chicago, we have received a copy of "Harris' Insurance Manual," containing instructions, definitions of terms, etc., relating to insurance, together with a well arranged policy register, all bound in convenient form.

We wonder whether the National Association of Life Underwriters, which meets on Tuesday next at Cleveland, will take he rebate bull by the horns, *à la* one year ago? The bull, horns and all, seems to be in pretty good condition yet.

We are pleased to note, that the fire insurance companies represented at Victoria, B.C., have notified the city council that, until the $300 municipal tax saddled upon them shall be repealed, insurance rates will be just 25 per cent. higher than before.

The Sun Insurance Office, which for about two years has maintained a distinct branch called the Central Department, with headquarters at Chicago, has followed the example of the Home of New York, and will discontinue the department on October 1. All the agencies in that field will report direct to the New York office.

The National Convention of Fire Chiefs, held at Milwaukee last week, was largely attended, Montreal representatives being present. It was voted to hold the next convention in Montreal, commencing the first Tuesday in August next, continuing four days.

At the stockholders meeting of the People's Fire of Manchester, N.H., last week, it was voted to make the cash capital $200,000 and go on with the business. Mr. Frank A. Colby, general agent, has resigned, to take charge of the large agency business of Burge, Hayes & Co. of Boston.

The injunction case of the Sun Life of London against the Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada, to restrain the latter from using its own name in England, has had a preliminary hearing before Mr. Justice Sterling; affidavits have been filed, and, on the motion of the plaintiff company, the hearing postponed until after the long vacation.

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Fire Underwriters' Association of the Northwest takes place as usual in Chicago, the date being September 28th and 29th. A number of interesting papers will be read by expert underwriters followed by lively discussions. Mr. C. I. Whittemore of the Providence-Washington delivers the annual address.

According to "L'Argus," our French contemporary, the net premiums for 1892 of the French fire insurance companies were 100,415,087 francs and the losses 53,271,879 francs, the loss ratio being 53.05. The total expenses were 34.40 per cent. of the premiums, making the ratio of combined losses and expenses 87.45. This leaves a margin of 12.55.

Some time ago the insurance commissioner of Wisconsin indicated his intention to compel the accident associations doing business in that State on the Lloyds plan to pay the license fees exacted of accident insurance companies generally. An opinion has now been promulgated by the attorney-general of the State that Commissioner Root has correctly construed the law.

German life insurance returns show that the 19 regular companies issued in 1892, 64,973 policies for $61,749,245—a gain over 1891 of $5,546,395. The 20 co-operative companies issued, in 1892, 54,757 policies for $51,392,510—a gain over 1891 of $5,618,435. The combined icnrease in new business has about 12 per cent., and the increase in insurance in force about 6 per cent.

A meeting of the Electrical Committee of the Underwriters' International Electric Association was held in Chicago August 17 to 19, at which important amendments were agreed on to the existing regulations governing electric wires. The trolley wires came in for a prominent share of attention. Boards of underwriters of all the prominent centers were represented at the meeting.

Insurance Commissioner Hahn of Ohio has commenced legal proceedings to wind up the Eclipse Fire Insurance Company of Cleveland, a concern operating under an old legislative provision and claiming to have $100,000 capital. Mr. Hahn, after investigation, says he does not believe the company has a dollar of invested funds. The president of the concern is said to live in Canada, the secretary in Chicago, and the business to be manipulated by the notorious undergrounders of Chicago, "E. P. Elwes & Co."

Every fire underwriter in Canada will enrich his storehouse of information by consulting a copy of Mr. F. B. Relton's *Early History of Fire Insurance* in Great Britain and Ireland in the 17th and 18th centuries, reviewed in our last issue, and advertised in another column. The exclusive sale for Canada has been given the INSURANCE AND FINANCE CHRONICLE at the uniform price of $6.50.

A destructive fire occurred on Thursday of last week in South Chicago, burning about 130 dwellings, two or three immense coal sheds, and some churches. A good many poor people are houseless, the fire having been in a district built before South Chicago became a part of the city proper where frame cottages abound. The insurance loss will be about $150,000 and the total loss probably $400,000 to $500,000.

The American Legion of Honor, assessment concern, shows a decreasing membership and an increasing mortality rate. During the past year the death rate has increased from 14.90 to 16.16 per 1,000. So numerous have been suicides among the members (said to have been nearly half the total deaths last year) that at the recent annual meeting it was decided to pay no more suicide claims unless the insurance has been in force for three years.

Ohio now has one of the best anti-rebate laws in the country. The old law was very stringent in its provisions, and a recent amendment further provides: "It shall be the duty of the superintendent of insurance, upon being satisfied that any corporation or agent thereof has violated any of the provisions of this Act, to revoke the license of the company or agent so offending, and no license shall be granted to such company or agent for one year after such revocation".—*Insurance Post*, Chicago.

Comparing the number of risks burned in the United States caused by electric wires in 1892, as given in the *Chronicle Fire Tables* at 241, with three or four previous years, we find great variation as to the number. In 1891 the number given was 194, in 1890 it was 227, in 1889 it was 357, and in 1888 only 91. The value of the property burned was as follows: In 1888, $1,587,213; in 1889, $5,533,820; in 1890, $1,245,971; in 1891, $1,294,206, and in 1892, $2,966,536, a total in five years of $12,627,746.

The Insurance authorities of Ontario have cancelled the registration of the Dominion Benevolent and Endowment Association of Stratford, and the application for the incorporation of the Provincial Council of the Order of Chosen Friends has been refused. The former was started in 1889 to pay endowments quadrennially. The available assets at the beginning of the present year were not sufficient to meet the 1893 endowments falling due, hence the action of the insurance department.

A fire occurred in Halifax on Monday of last week, entailing about $100,000 loss on the hardware establishment of Stairs, Son & Morrow, where the fire originated. Other property was damaged, probably to the extent of $25,000. The total insurance involved was about $134,000. Mainly on the hardware establishment, the companies were interested as follows: Acadia, $21,000; Commercial Union, $14,700; Alliance, $5,000; Eastern, $15,000; North America, $2,500; Phœnix (Hartford), $9,000; Phenix, N.Y., $5,000; Halifax, $12,000; United Fire, $4,000; Manchester, $3,000; Northern, $6,000; London and Lancashire, $8,000; Ætna, $10,000.

We understand that the Ontario Mutual Life has arranged to prosecute its work in this province through four or five general agencies, each reporting direct to the head office. Districts, embracing several counties each, have been organized with headquarters as follows: Richmond, with Mr. John Ewing, an old resident and long time fire insurance man, as general agent; Arthabaskaville, Mr. Louis Lavergne, a widely and favorably known resident, general agent; St. Hyacinthe, Mr. Arthur W. Bradford, formerly with the Canada Life, as general agent. Other appointments will soon be made. Mr. Forbes continues as the representative of the company in Montreal, and an increase in the force is contemplated.

The Investigator of Chicago, commenting on the value of accident insurance protection, in the light of numerous accidents of recent occurrence in that city, says: "Two people have been killed while riding in street cars supposedly secure from all possible danger—one by a bridge lever, and another by a frightened horse which plunged into the car. Seven persons lost their lives in a three story hotel, in broad daylight, from fire and smoke, while many others were badly injured. The flames were extinguished in a few minutes after discovery, the interior of the building being but slightly damaged. And yet seven people perished. None of these people had reason to believe they were in danger, yet each suffered. So it is with the thousands that daily throng the streets."—Moral: Carry some accident insurance.

A pretty bad fire, aided by the high wind, occurred in this city on Tuesday evening last, in the building Nos. 85-89 St. James street, owned by Judge Cross. The insurance on the building was $28,800, being in the Scottish Union for $14,400: Eastern, $7,200; and Norwich Union, $7,200. The loss is estimated at about $12,000. Marcotte, auctioneer, claims $60,000 loss, with insurance of $20,000 as follows: Liv. & Lond. & Globe, $5,000; Queen, $2,500: Phœnix of Hartford, $1,500; Quebec Fire, $3,500: United Fire, $5,000; Western, $2,500. Mathieu Bros., wine merchants, had $22,000, of which $17,000 was taken by the Phœnix of Hartford, and $5,000 by the Queen. The loss will probably not exceed $8,000. Duval & Co, printers, were insured for $3,000 in the Commercial Union; loss probably 50 per cent. The Cheesebrough Manufacturing Co. had $5,000 in the Manchester: loss not much over $2,000. The insurance on Clough's cigar factory we have not yet been able to ascertain. The total property loss by the fire will probably not exceed $90,000.

PERSONAL MENTION.

MR. W C. AUSTIN has been appointed general agent of the Standard Life for the Brockville district.

MR. G. H. ALLEN, of Kingston, inspector for the Standard Life, was in Montreal last week, and reports business good for the company in Ontario.

MR. E. COZENS SMITH, general manager of the Imperial Fire of London, arrived in New York by the steamer "Columbia" on Friday of last week.

MR. E. D. JONES, director-general for England of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life, has resigned, and, it is rumored, will enter the service of the Equitable Life of New York.

MR. ISRAEL C. PIERSON, the well known secretary of the Actuarial Society of America, and actuary of the Washington Life, enjoyed part of his vacation at Waterloo, Ont., as the guest of Messrs. Wm. Hendry and Geo. Wegenast of the Ontario Life, supplemented by a fishing excursion to Little Current, Manitoulin, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Wegenast.

MR. R. H. MATSON, of Toronto, the general manager of the Provident Savings Life for Canada, was in Montreal last week. He reports business good, and that the first seven months of the year show an increase by the company of more than $4,000,000 in new insurance over the same period last year.

MR. W. S. HODGINS, superintendent of agencies of the Ontario Mutual Life, after several weeks of good work in this province organizing the agencies of the company, left for Ottawa last week on his way home to Waterloo. He reports the prospects for business in this province flattering.

MR. W. M. RAMSAY, of this city, the well known and efficient manager for Canada of the Standard Life of Edinburgh, sailed by the "Labrador" on Saturday of last week, accompanied by Mrs. Ramsay, for a visit to the Old World, combining business with recreation. We believe it has been some five or six years since Mr. Ramsay visited the Old Country. It is expected that he will remain abroad until November, and the kindly wishes of a host of friends will go with him that he may have a pleasant journey and a safe return.

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