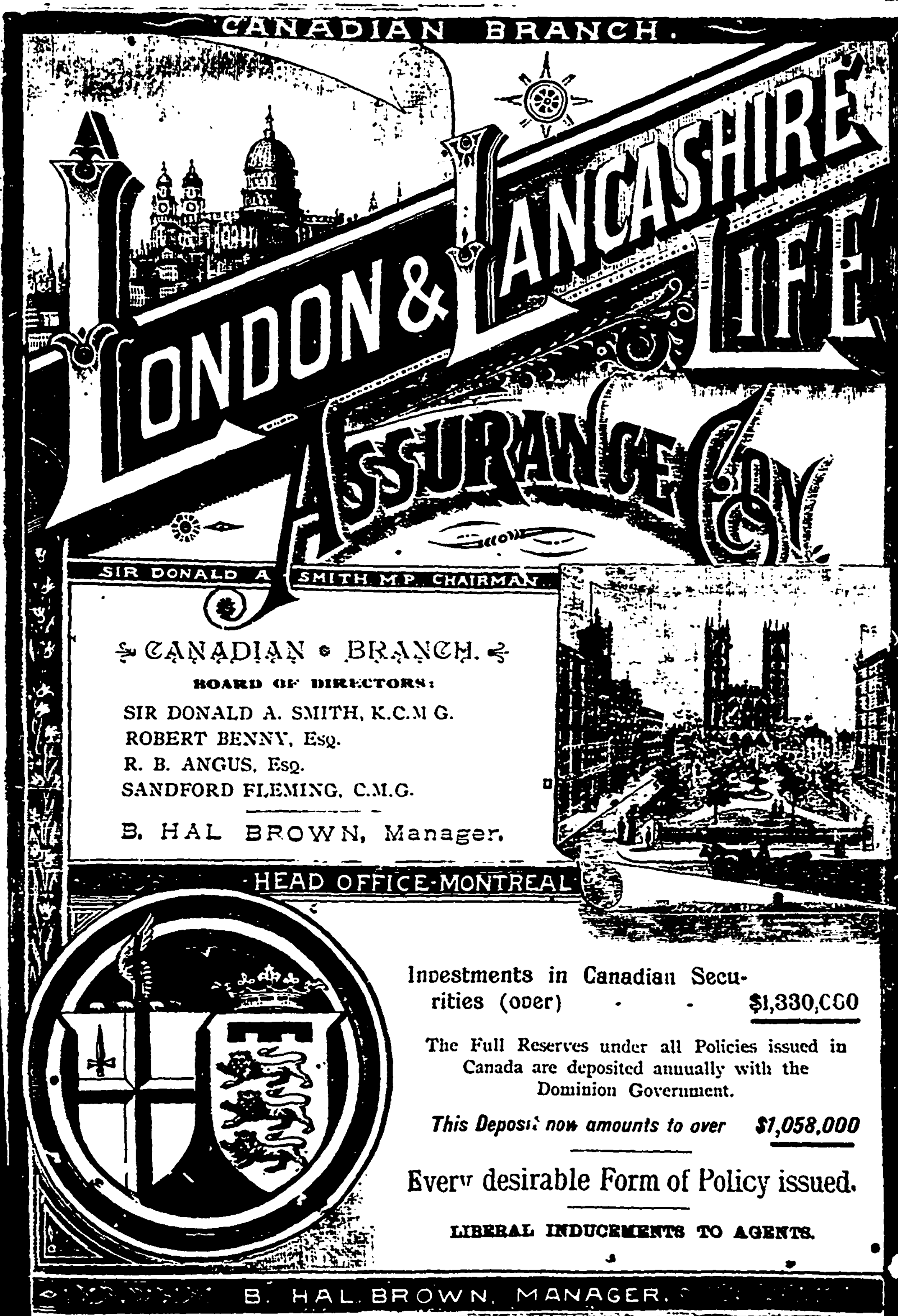
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How Insurance Credit Works now.

The evils inseparable from freely giving credit for premiums by the agents of the fire insurance companies have been and are being unpleasantly illustrated since the financial disturbance begun in the United States. So extensive has been the "suspension of payments" by these debtor policy-holders, that a serious falling off has been experienced by the companies in their usual premium receipts, while in many cases the threats of cancellation to induce payment have only resulted in being encouraged by the insured to carry out the threats at the cost to the company of losing the few dollars of earned premium due. These numerous small amounts make a considerable total and score a serious loss. Long credit in fire insurance is bad enough at any time; in a time like the present it is a very expensive indulgence. It is to be hoped that recent experience may prove to be an educator of some value.

An Interesting Accident Insurance Case.

Press dispatches from St. Paul tell of an accident insurance case, the decision of which will be awaited with general interest. The husband of the plaintiff, who is Mrs. Seward of Stillwater, Minn., held an accident policy for $5,000 in the Columbian Accident Insurance Company of Chicago, and was killed by a shot fired by George Peters, a discharged reporter on the Stillwater *Messenger*, of which Seward was editor and proprietor. The policy, as is usual, provides that the company shall not be held liable for any intentional injury, whether inflicted by the insured upon himself or inflicted by another person. The coroner's jury decided that Peters was in such a deranged condition of mind when the killing took place as to be unaware of the gravity of his act, and the plaintiff contends that, therefore, the killing could not have been intentional, being the act of an insane man. Two other policies will be affected by the decision.

Mr. Fouse's Actuarial School.

A movement for the organization of an actuarial society in Philadelphia, headed by Mr. L. G. Fouse, president of the Fidelity Mutual Life Association of that city, culminated about four years ago, we believe, in the formation of the "American Faculty of Actuaries," with Mr. Fouse as president. The movement has been helpful no doubt to a better understanding of the real fundamentals of life insurance among the gentlemen comprising the association, and who are connected with the assessment and natural premium systems. A knowledge of true actuarial principles and an honest desire to utilize that knowledge can have but one termination eventually, viz., conversion to the essentials of the level premium system. We therefore note with pleasure that Mr Fouse announces the early establishment in Philadelphia of a training school for actuaries covering a wide range of topics, and trust that all the disciples of assessmentism may avail themselves of the opportunity to become better acquainted with the science of true life insurance.

The Chronicle Fire Tables.

The full value of that admirable annual publication called the *Chronicle Fire Tables*, which for several years has been issued by the *Chronicle Company* of New York, like the value of many good things to which we have become accustomed, can never be known but from its loss—an event which all intelligent fire underwriters would regard as in the nature of a calamity. The collection and classification of fire loss statistics in the *Tables* have reached a point of completeness leaving little to be desired in the current volume for 1893, which furnishes a complete exhibit by States, and tables of general results, such as cannot be found and is not attempted in any other publication. We have already given our readers some valuable extracts from this ample storehouse of information, and can only repeat what we have heretofore said, that no thoroughly equipped fire underwriter can afford to forego the possession of the *Chronicle Fire Tables*.

The New Investment Policy of the Standard Life.

WITH COMMENDABLE enterprise the Standard Life of Edinburgh, of which Mr. W. M. Ramsay of this city is manager for Canada, has announced a new plan of insurance under what is called "Family Trust Investment" policies. Briefly stated, the plan is to furnish to the beneficiary. the wife of the assured, a fixed income payable half yearly during her lifetime, the amount of the income being three and a half or some larger agreed per cent. of the amount for which the policy is issued. For example, a policy issued at age 30 at the ordinary premium for $10,000, the age of the wife being 25, would yield annually to the latter $350; while at her death the full amount named in the policy at date of issue is payable to the children or otherwise, as may have been directed by the assured in his will. By payment of a small additional premium, a four or a five per cent. income may be secured, as desired. On "with profit" policies the income at the agreed per cent. is based upon the original sum named in the policy, plus bonus additions at the time of the death of the assured; or, if preferred, the bonus additions will be paid to the widow in cash, leaving the original policy as the basis of income. This plan obviates the risk and expense belonging to an ordinary trusteeship exercised by individuals, the company of course becoming responsible to the full extent of its funds for the payment of the income as well as for the face of the original policy. This plan can scarcely fail to commend itself to men of prudence and foresight, and will no doubt become popular.

Occupation and the Mortality Rate.

THE INFLUENCE of occupation on mortality is a matter of great interest and importance to insurance companies, and its study in the light of statistics presents some surprises. A writer in the *National Popular Review* of Chicago gives the result of his experience with 12,000 different persons in England and Wales for the three years, 1881-2-3, which for official purposes he had collected, and embracing all classes of people. From these he constructs a table including 44 classes of occupations, finding that the rate of mortality was lowest among clergymen and highest among innkeepers dispensing liquors. He takes 100 for clergymen as a standard, and from that basis gives the relative rate for the other classes. Thus, those next lowest are found to be gardeners 108, farmers 114, general agricultural laborers 126, grocers 139, fishermen 143, lawyers and silk manufacturers 152, while carpenters were 148 and paper makers 129. Medical men showed a rate of 202 and coal miners 160, while brewers was 245 and innkeepers 397, the highest of all. Other occupations were graded between the lowest above given and this last class at varying rates. He finds that, taking all males of all classes, and comparing the mortality with men engaged in the liquor trade, there were 1,521 deaths of the latter to 1,000 of the former. The largest mortality among the latter was from liver diseases, diseases of the nervous and of the circulatory systems, and urinary troubles.

The Battle of the Two Suns.

WE REFERRED in our last issue to the efforts of the Sun Life of England to prevent the Sun Life of Canada from doing business in England, on the ground that the name of the latter is almost identical with that of the former company. We pointed out the clear distinction in names, and showed the absurdity of the claim set up by the London company. We now find in the last issue of the *Post Magazine* a lengthy and strong editorial, taking the same ground as that assumed by us and taking the objecting company severely to task for its jealous attempt to prevent a well-known company from using its own name. Our contemporary cites numerous cases where companies with very similar and, in some cases, almost identical names have long done business side by side in England, and then points out the fact that the Insurance Companies' Acts can have no application to the case in hand. The Act of 1862 says: "No company shall be registered under a name identical with that by which a subsisting company is already registered, or so nearly resembling the same as to be calculated to deceive." It is shown that, inasmuch as the Sun Life of Canada is not and never was registered in England under the Companies' Act, but is a Canadian corporation, just as the Equitable of the United States is a foreign corporation, the law cannot apply to it at all; and besides, if it did, no confusion can arise among people intelligent enough to insure their lives between the "Sun Life Assurance Society" of London, organized in 1810, and the "Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada," incorporated in 1865. Our contemporary well says, that the directors of the London company "have allowed themselves to be lured into a position that cannot be defended on grounds either of legality, justice or expediency." This, we believe, expresses the general verdict.

THE LIFE COMPANIES' INVESTMENTS AND THE FINANCIAL DEPRESSION.

The financial situation at present existing in the United States is one which presents some serious phases to the insurance companies as affecting the value of their assets. This is also a question in which more than a million and a half of policyholders are interested, so far as the regular life insurance companies are concerned, and which they naturally regard with more or less anxiety. The very rapid and very great decline in the market value of stocks and bonds during the past three or four months has a very vital relation to the possible surplus to be reported at the end of the year, unless, as we hope, improvement in values and the restoration of confidence shall during the next three or four months be as rapid and as general as has been the decline. Of course there need be no alarm as to the ability of the companies to go right along steadily and meet their obligations, even if the condition should not improve as much as may be desired or expected, but the surplus from which dividends or bonuses are to come to policyholders may be materially reduced.

If all the life companies were able to report their permanent investments as being in municipal, State and Government bonds, first class real estate mortgages, and the like, the situation might well be viewed with perfect equanimity, for these securities represent values but little affected by the temporary disturbances which periodically take place in the financial world. Unfortunately, however, most of the companies have a good deal of money invested in miscellaneous stocks and bonds, which are listed upon the stock exchange and subject to the caprice of the mercurial money market. Besides, the companies loan more or less on collateral securities, generally with a good margin for safety; but, as the present experience demonstrates, it sometimes happens that sudden depreciation wipes out that margin and a good deal more besides. On January 1st, 1893, the life companies tabulated in the New York Report had over $37,000,000 loaned on collaterals, or something over four per cent. of their total assets. At the same time the companies owned stocks and bonds of all kinds to the value of $342,990,019. Of this amount about $104,000,000 were invested in municipal and State or Government bonds and kindred securities, leaving, in round numbers, $239,000,000 in railway and telegraph and that class of stocks and bonds. This constitutes about 30 per cent. of the entire reserve and over 26 per cent. of the total assets. Adding the four per cent. of collaterals, and we thus have over one-third of the reserve invested in fluctuating securities of uncertain value. How uncertain that value is the daily quotations in Wall street during the past ninety days strikingly show.

The managers of the life companies are, as a rule, careful to invest only in the best and most reliable of this class of stocks and bonds, but, as has recently been pointed out by *Bradstreet's* taking twenty of the leading trading stocks whose average was 82 in February last, these same stocks had an average quotation on July 26 of 45—a falling off of 32 points. Since that date there has been a further decline, until some stocks, usually rated as safe investments, have sold at just about two-thirds the price held at the beginning of the year. If this low rate were to continue, it would mean that on December 31 next the companies would report as the market value of the $239,000,000 of stocks and bonds above referred to about $160,000,000, provided the bonds experienced the some depreciation as the stocks. Even a twenty-five per cent. decline, on the average, would mean $60,000,000 taken from the surplus. We have repeatedly cautioned the life companies in these columns against investments in railway, telegraph and kindred bonds and stocks, believing that "trading" securities do not properly have a place in the sacred trust funds devoted to life insurance. Nearly a year ago, in dealing with the investment question as applied to the life companies, we used the following language:—

> We do not lose sight of the fact—and it is a very important fact—that great care and much vigilance is exercised by the executives of the companies in the selection of these miscellaneous securities, but still no man's sagacity is sufficient to tell what the condition of a given railway or the realizable value of its bonds a year hence may be.

When such choice stocks as New York Central, Lake Shore, and Illinois Central take a plunge from an average of 115 to 98 in ninety days, as has lately been the case, the force of the above observation will clearly appear. We are not unmindful of the difficulties in the way of investing the more than nine hundred million dollars of assets belonging to the United States life companies exclusively in securities not subject to fluctuation in the stock market; but some of the American companies manage to do this successfully and profitably, and so do the Canadian companies, as a rule, and we believe that with all companies the holdings of these fluctuating securities may be reduced to a very small margin. In order to show at a glance the distribution of the investments as to the principal items of the companies tabulated in the New York Report, we make the following exhibit:—

Total gross assets, Jan. 1, 1893	$903,734,537
Real estate owned, percentage of assets	10.55
Mortgage on real estate	37.87
Municipal, State, county, school and Gov't. bonds.	11.66
Railway, telegraph, bank and kindred securities..	26.21
Loans on collateral	4.13
All other assets (cash, notes, unpaid prems., etc.)..	9.58

It is a question to be considered just now with the utmost gravity by the financial managers of the life insurance companies, as to the wisdom of investing more than a quarter of their entire assets on the average, as above shown, in securities which are at the mercy of every financial flurry, while municipal bonds of solid cities and towns, and bonds based upon the entire wealth of a State or county and good real estate loans are to be had. If the rate of interest is a trifle less, the safety of the principal and the regularity of interest payments more than make up the difference. We shall be mistaken if the severe lesson of 1893 does not result in a marked reduction in 1894 of the vacillating class of securities held by the American life insurance companies.

THE MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS OF INSURER AND INSURED, IN LIFE INSURANCE CONTRACTS.

The first question in the first form of an application is usually for the full name of the applicant. The answer should be the full legal name, consisting of the surname and baptismal name or names. These are required not only for insertion in the policy if issued, but also (taken in connection with the answers to subsequent questions) to serve as a means of personal identification, and to help to guard the company against fraud. The second form usually contains a question intended to draw out the facts as to what marks of identification there may be on the face, body or limbs of the applicant. If the applicant can state any marks of identification, it is certainly to his or her own best interest to do so as fully as possible. This answer, with the name, the age, and the physical measurements recorded by the medical examiner, constitute the security of the company against the frauds of a claim on a substituted body, or the substitution of some other person than the real applicant to pass the medical examination or other kindred criminal practices. The full legal name of the applicant is therefore of first importance. If he or she is generally known by any other name, designation or nickname used often enough to warrant it, there is no harm whatever (but rather a distinct benefit to the applicant) in giving such popular name or alias.

The name of the proposed beneficiary and his or her relationship to the applicant are almost of equal importance, and should be very carefully answered, because a legal insurance requires an insurable interest recognized by the law. The law assumes that the wife, the husband, the children, the father, the mother, and all blood relations, or relations by legal interpretation, have a recognized and valid insurable interest. A *fiancé* may be the beneficiary under a life insurance policy by tacit admission and custom, and in some localities by legal right; but application should not be made for a policy in favor of "a friend," in this relationship to the applicant, without reciting the fact of betrothal. The absence of a valid insurable interest is so suggestive of a meditated fraud or irregularity, that in such cases where a future marital relationship is contemplated there should be no suppression of facts, but a clear and distinct answer to the question, and such incidental explanation as will establish the expected future relationship beyond dispute.

A policy of insurance may legally issue in favor of a church, society, benevolent institution, library, or corporation or association of public benefit and interest; and it is an eminently proper thing for persons having none others dependent upon them, to use this means of establishing a public good after they themselves are gone from their accustomed sphere of usefulness. Many a good name might thus be caused to live in public esteem, long after it would otherwise have been buried in the dust of oblivion. Many an institution of science, of learning, or of public use and benefit in some other form, might thus be helped legally and effectually by those who have not the wherewithal to carry out to the full their public-spirited and benevolent intentions, during their life-time. Many a name may in this worthy manner be engraven on the public memory, for future generations to revere, long after it would otherwise have been forgotten. Many a deed of public good and benefit may thus be accomplished by those who in no other way could possibly accomplish an equal amount for the general public welfare. In applying for a policy of life insurance in favor of some public institution, no suppression of that fact should be attempted, but it should rather be proclaimed with pride, because, if in accordance with the means and resources of the applicant, this fact could not do otherwise than incline the company applied to very strongly in the applicant's favor.

A creditor has a legal insurable interest in the life of a debtor, and an application for an insurance payable to a creditor should distinctly state that fact, and should not be for much, if any, in excess of the amount of the debt—present or prospective. When life insurance is desired in favor of a creditor, many agents suggest the suppression of that fact, and recommend that the policy issue to the benefit of the estate of the applicant, and that after issue he or she shall assign the policy to the creditor. We do not approve this system. We think that agents so doing may (perhaps unintentionally) be ignoring the rights of the company they represent.

An insurance in favor of a creditor is a proposition always open to question, investigation and necessary discussion, in order to determine whether the insurable interest (an essential basis of the contract) is valid and of legal force and effect. If the transaction be strictly legitimate in all its bearings and relations, a life company will not reject an application on that score. On the other hand, it must be remembered that men of certain temperaments are unduly affected by worry and by the pressure of financial surroundings, and it is right that the company should have the knowledge of that fact when insurance is desired for a creditor's benefit, so that (if it seems advisable to the executive officers) reasonable inquiry into the circumstances may be made before the issue of their policy contract. They should have an opportunity of determining whether the financial obligations of the applicant are such as to exercise a mental strain that would injuriously affect the risk.

We believe that while many agents do suggest to applicants the suppression of the fact that policies are desired for security of creditors, they do so unthinkingly and without real knowledge that they are acting adversely to the interests of their company. It is manifest to any impartial thinker, that an applicant who is very deeply buried in financial difficulties may very well (on that account alone) be an undesirable risk, and that the company's interests imperatively demand a full flood of light on all that will so intimately affect the risk they are asked to assume. Therefore, we suggest to all honest applicants for life insurance, to state plainly if they desire a policy for a creditor's security, to give the name and address of the creditor and the amount of the debt. Any further information they may see fit to give will be regarded by the company strongly in the applicant's interest—as an undoubted evidence of good faith.

Many partners in business have a legal insurable interest in the lives of one another—an interest that every life insurance company will honor and respect. The statement of the fact that a policy is desired to secure a business partner in the event of the death of the applicant will not in the slightest degree operate against his chances of securing the issue of the policy he applies for. Such policies are not only regarded as strictly legitimate, but also as almost a matter of business necessity in many cases. Life companies are perfectly willing that, with their full knowledge and consent, their policies shall thus be made effectual in conserving legitimate business interests, and even parade special forms of life insurance as particularly adapted to the use of business partners in securing one of their most important interests.

Very few things will act more unfavorably on the judgment of the officers of a life company, than an evident suppression of facts as to the use to which a policy is intended to be put. Whatever may be the circumstances or conditions under which one may desire to benefit, assist or secure a beneficiary under the policy applied for, they should be stated fully and freely, and the applicant be firmly convinced that he will thus best secure the fulfillment of his own wishes. He should demonstrate his own unquestioned good faith, and firmly rely upon the good faith of the company when the policy becomes a claim. We have not space here to treat of the subject of Trusteeships in connection with the beneficial interest under life policies, but will consider it in our next issue.

MR. RELTON'S FIRE INSURANCE HISTORY.

Insurance literature has been greatly enriched by the new volume from the pen of Mr. Francis B. Relton, giving a succinct history of fire insurance in Great Britain and Ireland, covering the earliest transactions and including the principal developments of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Mr. Relton was for many years the office secretary of the Sun Fire Office, and possessed exceptional facilities as well as peculiar fitness for the work attempted. Having applied himself for a number of years to the task of collecting data from reliable sources pertaining to the Company of London Insurers, afterwards known as the Sun Fire Office, intended for the use of the Company's managers, he gradually enlarged the scope of his enquiries to embrace the movements in the business antecedent to those of the company in question, and tracing the successive stages of development of all the old offices, including the London Assurance Corporation, the Phœnix, the Hand-In-Hand, the Union Assurance Society, the Royal Exchange, etc. Brief reference is made to early insurance schemes in Germany, the individual insurance projects of Dr. Barbon, De Laune and others in England following soon after the great London Fire of 1666, concerning which some valuable statistics are given, together with other schemes of a more or less permanent nature.

Liberal space is given to the projects and personal history of Mr. Charles Povey, which became the legacy of the Sun Fire Office, and the information touching Mr. Povey and relating to the history and development of the Sun form Part II of the work. The detailed history of Charles Povey's projects, including his Salvage Corps Scheme, from 1706 to 1710, is pretty complete and gives much information never before recorded by the insurance historians, and is of great value. The book is a large octavo of 562 pages, printed on heavy paper, on new type, and has successfully embodied the researches of such men as Walford, Beckman and Stewart, while adding the new material accessible to the author.

No book on insurance history has for a long time appeared of equal value, and it should speedily find a place in the library of every fire underwriter. In another column we quote some interesting extracts from its pages.

The fire loss for July in the United States and Canada, as reported by the *Commercial Bulletin*, was $12,118 700, as against $11,530,000 for the corresponding month of 1892, and $9,692,200 for July, 1891. The total loss for the seven months of this year has been $98.101,300, as compared with $76,967,250 for the same period in 1892 and $79,247,370 in 1891. The monthly loss average has been over $14,000,000 thus far this year.

AGENT'S NEGLECT TO REPORT AS AFFECTING LIABILITY OF COMPANY.

A correspondent sends us the various circumstances of an insurance case as follows. The insured took an interim receipt for $1,250 on sundry farming implements, paid the authorized agent $5 on account of the premium, and received from him a properly issued interim policy. The agent forgot to notify the manager of his company of the transaction. Shortly afterwards, before the manager knew of the issuing of the interim policy, the implements insured were totally destroyed by fire. The query of our correspondent is: Can the insured recover of the insurance company for his lost property duly covered by the interim policy?

Our opinion is that he certainly can so recover. He holds the policy, or a legal substitute therefor, on which he had paid a part of the premium, while the agent had willingly received and delivered the policy, thus binding the contract on the part of the company, had anything beyond the issue and delivery of the interim pol been needed to perfect the insurance. A duly commissioned agent is a legal representative of his company, and all of his acts, in the line of his duty, are those of his company, and binding thereon. His failure to fulfill his duties by properly reporting the issue of the interim policy is between his principal, the company, and himself, an omission of duty which does not affect the insured, as he had no part therein. The delivery of the interim policy perfected the insurance, during its currency, as completely as would have been done by a regularly issued policy, unless notice had been given to the insured that the risk had been declined, and the unearned portion of the $5 paid as premium had been duly returned to him.

Had there been no money paid upon the issue of the interim policy, the mere delivery of it to the insured without such payment would have made the contract binding, such delivery being held to be evidence of intent and consent of the agent to give credit to the insured for the premium, which from that time became a simple debt owing by the latter to the former, who had by such voluntary credit waived the conditions of the policy requiring prepayment, and, as to his company, he assumed the debt himself. For all of which, if desired, abundant proof in the way of court decisions can be furnished. In *Fire Underwriters' Text Book*, subject "General Agent," p. 48:. Also, "Ad interim receipt," note 2, p. 512, where this subject is noted.

SOME ANTI-REBATING DEVELOPMENTS.

The rebate question in life insurance has presented some interesting phases of late, which, so far as declarations and resolutions go, indicate a real reform movement over the border. There have been abundant resolutions condemnatory of the practice by agents' conventions, including the National Association of Life Underwriters last September, and the officers of the companies have been more than once called upon to apply a remedy which the agents have pledged themselves in advance to heartily endorse. Beyond these well-sounding resolutions, however, nothing practical has been done, and rebating has gone on under one cover and another, participated in by most of the agents and unchecked by the companies, with few exceptions. Some of the very sedate gentlemen loudest in denunciation of the practice, it is claimed, are among the most accomplished rebaters, and so the farce has gone on. A few of the companies and their agents have, it is believed, sincerely endeavored to stamp out the practice, and now the New York Life and the Northwestern Life have become committed, through their executive officers, to prohibition. The latter company a few days since put itself on record as follows:

Whereas, on February 1, 1893, official notice was given by the second vice-president and superintendent of agencies of this company to all agents in States in which laws against rebating on life insurance premiums exist, to the effect that any agent thereafter guilty of rebating in any form could no longer write applications for this company; and *whereas* the company has always disapproved of rebating, regardless of any State law prohibiting the same; be it, therefore,

Resolved, That the second vice-president and superintendent of agencies be and is hereby empowered to at once make the rule against rebating general in all fields where the company is operating.

The annual meeting of agents of the company, in session when the above action was taken, responded as follows:

Resolved, That we, the agents of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, heartily and cordially endorse the action of the company in relation to rebates, and hereby, on our honor as men, pledge our loyalty and fidelity to the principle that Northwestern policies shall bear but one price whenever sold, and that price par from Maine to Texas, from Massachusetts to California.

This looks like "business," and we trust that the company and agents alike mean just what they say.

A few days ago there was also a large meeting in Chicago of the agents of the New York Life, at which the report of a special committee was adopted rehearsing the evils of rebating, denouncing it as demoralizing, unprofitable, unjust and inequitable, and closing with the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the president of the New York Life Insurance Company, John A. McCall, be and hereby is requested to exercise every power at his command as the chief executive officer of the company, to the end that the practice of rebating may be both completely and speedily exterminated from the ranks of our agency force; and

Resolved, That this convention hereby pledges itself, individually and collectively, to give to the president such cordial support as will most effectively aid him in the consummation of this great work.

To this action President McCall has responded in a circular letter to all the agents of the company, the full text of which we print in another column, and to which we invite attention. He most emphatically condemns rebating, rehearses some of its evils, and while not declaring any penalty to be executed against rebaters, says: "I believe in the loyalty of our men and their willingness to carry out, *without flinching*, the company's wishes in this behalf, but for the benefit of any who may be weak, or who do not respond to these sentiments, I will say I trust you just as our forefathers trusted in God at Bunker Hill; they did not at the same time neglect to keep their powder dry."

This language is somewhat equivocal, but if it means that in case it turns out that Mr. McCall's trust in the willingness of the agents to stop rebating shall in some cases be found to have been misplaced the penalty of dismissal in case of future rebating will then be announced to follow, we shall be quite satisfied with his way of stating the case. The way for all companies to stop rebating is to stop it, and we wait with expectant interest the announcement of the attitude to be assumed on this question by the other large companies.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE.

From the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*, which presents a comprehensive exhibit of the fire and marine insurance business of the companies in Australasia for the years 1883 to 1892, inclusive, we have compiled the following general results. It will be seen that the Australian companies have been *more fortunate during 1892 than* those doing business in either England or America. Here are the figures of the Australasian companies :—

Year.	Net Prems.	Losses.	Loss Ratio.	Expenses	Ratio.
1883	£1,447,386	£909,464	62.84	£352.352	24.34
1884	1,82[illegible],847	1,308,334	71.85	414,021	22.74
1885	1,719,863	1,327,539	77.19	462,714	26.90
1886	1,433,527	1,032,477	72.02	413,471	28.84
1887	1,421,017	958,492	67.45	405,447	28.53
1888	1,474,821	966,895	65.56	415,150	28.15
1889	1,527,674	1,075,940	70.43	424,125	27.76
1890	1,414,567	985,038	69.64	405,859	28.69
1891	1,353,616	927,691	70.38	372,094	27.48
1892	1,219,999	744,209	61.00	343,538	28 16

The number of companies doing business in 1892 was twenty-two as against twenty-five in 1891, the numbers varying for previous years. The comparison of results by principal localities for 1892 is as follows: New Zealand companies—loss ratio, 62.30; Sydney companies, 57.41; Melbourne companies, 61.56. The expense ratio was 26.49 for New Zealand companies, 31.15 for Sydney, and 28.80 for Melbourne companies.

PRESIDENT McCALL ON REBATES.

President John A. McCall, of the New York Life Insurance Company, has issued a letter to agents regarding rebates, in which he says:

You have been advised of the resolutions unanimously adopted at Chicago, under which our agents have referred to me the question of "rebate," and have asked me to take any necessary steps to eliminate this practice from our ranks.

I do not need to recite to you the evils which result from it. The resolutions already referred to do this sufficiently. And as I have yet to meet the first man who does not agree that the results of rebating are altogether to be deplored, I take it that such is your opinion. If you happen to live in a State where legislation has been had on this subject, I am sure you have been observing the law, and, in so far, this letter does not apply to you. But be that as it may, I want to say to you, together with all New York Life field men, that henceforth rebate in any form must cease.

If anything can be added to the language of the resolutions referred to, it would be this:

Rebate is a manifest iniquity to someone, since agents representing the same company offer the same policy at different prices. This touches (1) the policyholder and the principles of mutuality upon which our company is built, and (2) it interests you in that you are forced, either directly or indirectly, into a conflict within your own household.

Rebate defeats its own purpose, since it does not bring you in the end the thing you seek, even though you may be indifferent to the questions of law or equity.

Therefore rebating is: (1) Unlawful; (2) Inequitable; (3) Unnecessary.

On the first two points I do not need to dwell. On the third I can only say that you have certain advantages which more than offset any conditions you may meet.

You have (1) a company which the world knows all about; which has been tried and not found wanting; which has been endorsed as none of its competitors have been. You have (2) a policy which has more benefits and fewer conditions, at the same price, than the policies offered against it.

To the objection that these advantages (which no insurance man denies) will not always bring you the business against the methods which may be employed by competitors, I can only say (conceding the truth of this, because, unfortunately, it is true) you must let some business go. It will take considerable moral courage to lose a risk, or a number of risks, but if you do it once, standing squarely on the doctrine that your goods are not offered at what you can get, but at what they are worth, you will probably never have to do it a second time and you may never lose a single risk.

There is something in courage which appeals even to the man who is working only for a discount, and with the average citizen a correct business statement will always prevail. By adhering to this you will be constantly moving into a better stratum of society, securing a more intelligent and desirable class of applicants, and thereby not only putting money into your pocket but materially advancing the general interests of the company itself.

I am not writing this letter to tell you at this time of any particular penalty to be enforced if you should give a rebate. I am sure I shall never need to write any of our representatives in that way. I believe in the loyalty of our men and their willingness to carry out, without flinching, the company's wishes in this behalf, but, for the benefit of any who may be weak, or who do not respond to these sentiments, I will say I trust you just as our forefathers trusted in God at Bunker Hill: they did not at the same time neglect to keep their powder dry.

MANAGER BEDDALL ON THE PRESENT MORAL HAZARD.

With reference to the effect which the present money panic in the United States will have on the moral hazard in fire insurance, United States Manager Beddall of the Royal is reported in the *Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin* as follows:—

I am not one of those who believe that what we call moral hazard is materially increased by the depression in business and financial stringency which now prevail, and my reasons for arriving at this conclusion are these: A merchant, or a manufacturer, does not wilfully destroy his property except for a motive, and that motive is dollars. Assume if you please that he has a large stock of goods on hand with bills coming due which cannot be met, and no relief obtainable from those sources of credit which are usually open to him. He is in a strait, and failure stares him in the face. In reviewing the situation the thought of fire occurs to him, but on reflection he concludes that to burn means a notification to all of his creditors that a realization of his property is at hand, and that they will proceed at once to garnishee his insurance companies for the claims which may be made. His assets by this process are more securely tied up than ever before, and loans which he might possibly have procured but for the fire are now placed entirely beyond his reach. Besides, to burn up means a delay of weeks, perhaps months or years, if the origin of the fire is suspicious, and in addition a loss of prestige and connections which can never be recovered.

Further, his business experience will have taught him, if he entertained any thought of profiting directly by the fire, that the adjusters of the companies are fully competent to guard the interests of their employers and to ascertain the actual cash market value of the property at the time of the loss, for which only they are liable. He will thus see on reflection that he would be selling his goods on a fallen market, at a price below that which he might reasonably expect to realize on the return of better times, while the cash which he needed was as far removed from his grasp as before; because his creditors whom he could not satisfy would step in, and, in the liquidation which would ensue, would exact the last cent from him. From my experience and observations generally, the companies do better on a falling than on a rising market. Insurances are taken out on a certain basis of value, and if the market price is receding, it naturally follows that the loss is adjusted on a more favorable basis relatively than if the price were stationary or advancing. This in itself is a very important factor in loss settlements where the amounts involved are so large. To a company that pays $1,000,000 a year, a saving of five per cent. in consequence of a reduced market value would mean $50,000 in the aggregate—a fair profit in itself upon the business.

In saying this much I do not wish to be understood as underestimating the danger of moral hazard, but I desire merely to show that present conditions do not in my opinion appreciably enhance it. During the panic of 1873, and the three or four years which followed, our business was never so satisfactory, and losses of a suspicious origin were not more numerous then than before. The professional firebug is always on the alert and present with us, regardless of times and seasons, and our more experienced and careful underwriters will generally scent him out, disguise himself as he may. No, I say emphatically, moral hazard is not the cause of our troubles. It is rates. Test the combined experience of the companies in any manner that you please, and you will find that the loss ratio to sums insured has not materially increased in the aggregate during the last decade, the popular impression to the contrary notwithstanding, but the rates of premium have woefully fallen, and until these have been advanced to the average rate which prevailed fifteen years ago, there is no hope of salvation. Here is where the change is necessary, and it is from this source alone that the relief must come.

SOME EARLY FIRE INSURANCE HISTORY.

From Mr. F. B. Relton's new history of fire insurance in Great Britain and Ireland in the 17th and 18th centuries we extract the following, which dates as far back as 1680. The Dr. Barbon referred to, who figured prominently in the rebuilding of London after the great fire of 1666 and who conducted a scheme of individual insurance from fire loss, was one of the sons of the famous "Praise-God-Bare-bones" of Cromwell's time. We quote:—

1680. Dr. Barbon, having for some reason determined to relinquish his "one man" office, seems to have turned his attention to the reconstruction thereof and to the formation of a company to take over the business. The undertakers were Mr. Samuel Vincent, Dr. Nicholas Barbon (the real promoter), Mr. John Parons, Mr. Felix Calvert, and others not named. The new company assumed the name of "The Fire Office." It was for some time known, however, as "The Insurance Office at the backside of the Royal Exchange."

The above-mentioned undertakers were the founders of the first joint-stock or proprietary company for fire insurance in London and, probably, in the world. "It was carried out at the pecuniary risk of its founders without special legal or corporate powers, and was regarded in the eye of the law as a mere partnership trading with a joint-stock capital." It has been stated that the Act against Monopolies, referred to in Part II, hindered the formation of properly constituted insurance companies, but it does not seem to have interfered with the formation of "The Fire Office," possibly because, as stated, it was looked upon as a mere partnership.

"It is believed that the credit of founding fire insurance offices upon the strict mercantile principle of a fixed payment, in the event of loss, for a fixed annual premium belongs to England. The principle was adopted by this pioneer company." (Walford).

The following notice of the Office then appeared in the *True Protestant Domestick Intelligence* of May 7, 1680.

There is a new office to be kept at the backside of the Royal Exchange, London, and will be opened on Thursday next. They do undertake for a reasonable rate to secure the houses in London and the suburbs thereof from fire, and if burnt down to build them again at the cost of the office, for which end is provided a considerable bank of money, and a fund of free land, to such a value as will secure those that agree with the office. There being now in print a particular thereof, we need not give you any further account.

The *Mercurius Civicus*, or the *City Mercury*, No. 241, Thursday, May 12, 1680, contained the following announcement:

These are to give notice that the persons that propose to insure Houses from Fire do now attend at their Office in Threadneedle street against the Exchange every day from 9 to 12 in the morning and from 3 to 6 in the afternoon, to take the subscriptions of those persons that desire to insure, and have the advantage of a year by their subscription before the first of June next. And those persons that have not seen the propositions may receive them at the Office gratis, at Mr. Starkey's, bookseller, near Temple Bar, and at Mr. Hinchman's, bookseller, in Westminster Hall. (The colophon to the paper is, London, printed by R. E in Ave Mary Lane for the author, 1680.)

We next have a paper issued "From the Insurance Office for Houses on the Backside of the Royal Exchange."

It was thought fit to give this advertisement, that whereas there are propositions in print (*i.e., the first proposals*), setting forth the rates and terms for the insuring of houses, being sixpense in the £ Rent for brick houses and twelvepence for timber, with deduction for the ground rent, for which the office is to rebuild, or to pay the party whose house is insured £100 for every £10 per annum Rent that is insured, as often as the said house is burnt down, according to the election then made at the time of insuring. And whereas those words *Burnt down* were not so large but that they might admit of a question, whether it was intended that houses *blown up*, or pulled down, were to be rebuilt or receive satisfaction, as if they were burnt down. And likewise those words did not make provision in case the houses were only damnified. It is thought fit therefore to declare:—That it is the intent of the insurers that houses insured that are blown up and pulled down, as well as burnt down, should be rebuilt at the charge of the office, or receive satisfaction in money, according as in the propositions were set forth for insuring of Houses, and in a new edition now expressed; the former copy being since corrected and the words added:—Burnt down, demolished, or anywise damnified by reason of fire. And because it might occasion some dispute about the expences of workmen in making good the damages where the house is neither burnt down nor demolished, but only broken or damnified, it is thought necessary to avoid such differenses, that the office should have liberty to set their own workmen to repair all such damages; and if they are not repaired at the charge of the office within two months after the said damages are made, then to forfeit the whole sum expressed in the policy, as if the same were burnt down or demolished.

The names of the parties principally concerned were: Samuel Vincent, Dr. N. Barbon and several others, whose money was to pay off incumbrances on the estate (*i.e.*, of Dr. Barbon).

The cost of maintaining the fire brigade of London during the past year was $644,075, and there was paid for pensions $41,885. In addition, $179,695 went for capital expenditure, making a total of $865,655. The brigade consists of 825 men all told. The number of calls for fires during the year was 4,449.

FIRE LOSSES FOR JULY, 1893, IN CANADA.

Date.	Location.	Risk.	Total Loss.	Insurance Loss.
July 3	Seaforth......	Flax Barn..........	$2,000	$1,000
4	Stratford........	Machine Shop......	16,000	16,000
5	Sarnia....	Bath Houses........	5,000	1,500
5	Beeton....	Stores, etc	20,000	11,000
6	Montreal...... ...	Grain Elevator....	10,000	3,000
1	Emerson..	Grain Store.	7,000	6,000
6	Cookshire	Planing Mill	8,000	1,000
7	Toronto	Broom Factory......	2,500	2,500
5	Coldwater	Saw Mill..........	2,500	1,400
5	Grimsby........	Farm Property......	1,800	1,500
1	Quebec...........	Tug....	2,000	2,000
10	Fairv le, N.B...	Conflagration.	50,000	33,000
10	Owen Sound....	Stables, etc.	3,000	2,200
10	Huntsville......	Saw Mill....	10,000	3,000
12	Lachine	do Lumber, etc	15,000	7,000
7	Virden, Man....	Stores............	10,000	6,000
10	St. Elisabeth, Q.	Store	6,000	2,000
18	Quebec...... ..	Stores and Dwgs.	7,500	4,000
18	Levis....... ...	Planing Mill......	8,000	None
18	Stratford......	Hotel & Outb'dgs.	4,000	3,000
19	Bethany.... ...	Store & Dwgs......	4,000	4,000
20	Guelph..........	Malt House.......	3,000	2,100
20	Berlin	Furniture Factory.	5,000	2,500
20	Thetford Mines.	Asbestos Store	2,900	2,500
23	Shediac, N.B....	Hotels & Stores...	7,500	2,500
24	Parry Sound....	Saw Mill	10,000	5,500
25	Halifax, N.S....	Lumber & Stores..	12,000	6,000
25	Chesley.........	Livery, etc.........	2,500	1,500
26	Toronto	Paper Box Factory	4,500	4,500
27	Montreal.	Foundry, etc......	14,000	11,000
22	Whitby	Farm Property....	3,500	2,200
12	Manotick	Hotel.............	2,000	1,200
26	Quebec.........	Dwelling....... ..	1,000	1,000
27	Strathroy........	Dwelling....	2,000	1,400
29	Windsor........	Brush Factory....	12,000	8,700
31	Port Hope	Church	3,300	3,300
	Total..........	....	$ 279,500	$167,000

SUMMARY FOR SEVEN MONTHS.

	1892		1893.	
	Total Loss.	Insurance Loss.	Total Loss.	Insurance Loss.
For January.... ..	$622,200	$462,700	$402,000	$301,900
" February.....	245,400	171,700	722,800	449,100
" March........	702,100	439,900	671,030	533,830
" April	407,400	319,600	661,900	501,700
" May	507,500	296,500	310,500	197,400
" June....	195,800	140,900	1,060,800	382,500
" July....	290,800	210,900	279,500	167,000
Totals	$2,970,800	$2,042,200	$4,118,530	$2,533,430

Financial and Statistical.

THE PANIC AND ITS EFFECT

We have seen no better or more succinct statement of the probable outcome of the present financial disturbance in the United States than the following from the *Cincinnati Price Current*:—

"It will take a long time for the country to recover from the damage already inflicted, even under the most favorable circumstances, and all eyes are turned upon Congress, now in extra session, from which prompt relief is expected to be inaugurated by the repeal of the silver purchase law. The imperative necessity of this action is emphasized more emphatically each succeeding day, as the first step towards a restoration of confidence; but matters have already gone so far that the commerce of the country has become so crippled that it cannot be speedily restored to a normal condition. The resources of the country are almost unbounded, and there is little doubt that they will in time bring us back to a normal state of prosperity, but every day of trade depression carries us still further away from the hoped for recuperation If there was general prosperity in business in Europe we might hope for some reflex influence from there, but Europe has been suffering from a depression in most of her industries and has been flooding our markets with merchandise she was desirous to dispose of; besides, Great Britain is still smarting under the severity of the Australian financial panics and depression of trade. Of course circumstances might have been such as to make matters much worse: think what a serious disaster would have occurred if our currency had depreciated as much as silver bullion has, and such would have been the case if there had been free silver coinage. We are suffering now mainly from the withdrawal of money from trade channels; when this is returned, there will be currency enough for ordinary business, but this will not be done until confidence is so restored as to make everyone believe in the ability of the Government and the banks to meet all demands at sight, and confidence, when rudely shaken, is a plant of slow growth."

U. S. MONEY IN CIRCULATION.

The circulation statement issued by the United States Treasury Department shows that the amount of gold and silver coin and certificates, United States notes and National bank notes in circulation Aug. 1 was $1,611,099,017, an increase during the month of July of $17,372,606. The increase during the last twelve months was in round figures $9,000,000. The per capita circulation, based on an estimated population of 67,066,000 August 1 was 24.02. Of the $2,123,968,649 of the general stock of money issued, the amount as stated is in circulation, leaving $512.869,632 in the Treasury of the United States August 1, as follows:

Gold coin	$105,363,626
Standard silver dollars	365,108,461
Subsidiary silver	12,556,749
Gold certificates	93,710
Silver certificates	2,843,114
Treasury notes, act July 14, 1890	4,512,210
United States notes	22,286,612
Currency certificates, act June 8, 1872	485,000
National bank notes	3,620,150

The following statement shows the changes in circulation during July:

Gold coin	Increase	$13,276,241
Standard silver dollars	Decrease	805,754
Subsidiary silver	Decrease	1,393,139
Gold certificates	Decrease	5,358,990
Silver certificates	Increase	3,699,225
Treasury notes, act July 14, 1890	Increase	3,112,444
United States notes	Increase	3,518,721
Currency cert., act June 8, 1872	Decrease	4,080,000
National bank notes	Increase	5,403,858

A comparative statement shows that the Treasury lost during July $4,928,624, as follows:

Gold coin	Decrease	$6,746,297
Standard silver dollars	Increase	805,754
Subsidiary silver	Increase	700,805
Treasury notes, act July 14, 1890	Decrease	2,016.323
United States notes	Increase	3,518,721
National bank notes	Decrease	362,583
Gold bullion	Increase	5,104,826
Silver bullion	Increase	1,103,915

With variable quotations of gold in London daily, with much more violent fluctuations in the price of silver, with currency in New York at a premium of 4 per cent., and even silver dollars, commonly considered a nuisance as a circulating medium, commanding a premium, monetary affairs would seem to be decidedly "mixed." The money market is not only "*unsettled*" *but actually dizzy. We do not wonder* that a prominent Wall Street journal asks: "What is the real standard, anyway? Have we any?"

The Philadelphia *Press* says the situation in Europe begins to show some slight signs of improvement. Failures in Germany for the first half of the present year were 3,371, against 4,174 in the first six months of 1892 and 3,723 in the same part of 1891. Failures steadily increased in number in Germany from 1888 to 1892, nearly doubling in five years. Their decrease is the first sign of improvement, though the general trade situation is depressed.

The drop in silver, says the *Wall Street News*, has been a godsend to the gold miners of California, for in sixty days the revival of quartz and placer mining in the Sierra and foothill regions has produced over $4,000,000 in gold. Many abandoned claims are being opened, and no such energetic prospecting of old fields has been seen for twenty years as is now going on in California in Tuolumne, Amador, Eldorado and other counties, through which the great "mother lode" extends. With new appliances much ore which was formerly thrown away is now worked.

That "there is nothing new under the sun" is again forcibly illustrated by the discovery reported by Mr. B. F. Stevens of the United States Dispatch Agency in London, of the electrical apparatus once owned by Benjamin Franklin, and, as he claims, of the unquestionable fact that, during his last stay in England more than a hundred years ago, Franklin constructed an electric light for his own use sufficiently powerful to read by. Mr. Stevens says that the lamp used is still in a good state of preservation.

Tea culture bids fair to become of some importance on this continent. The Department of Agriculture at Washington has been making some very successful experiments with the cultivation of the plant in South Carolina, and reports unqualified success. Last summer the first pickings were taken from plants that sprouted in 1889, and the product submitted to expert tea-tasters and merchants has been pronounced readily marketable at a good price. It is claimed that the plant can be grown at a profit, commercially considered. Not requiring special curing for export like the teas of Japan and China, the leaves can be dried for the domestic trade and put up in bricks like other herbs.

Notes and Items.

The National Association of Life Underwriters meets at Cleveland this year on September 6th, 7th and 8th.

Our acknowledgments are due Superintendent Goodykoontz for the Colorado Insurance Report on the business of 1892.

We learn that Mr. A. B. Ingram, M.P, and Mr. J. H. Thompson, late of the C. L. & P. S., have formed a partnership at St. Thomas as insurance agents.

The Home Fire of New York has decided after October 1 next to discontinue its Western department at Chicago, excepting its Farm and Sub-Agency branches.

The annual meeting of the National Association of Fire Engineers of the United States meets at Milwaukee on the 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th of the present month.

We acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt from S. E. Dawson, Esq., Queen's printer at Ottawa, of a substantially bound volume of Statutes of Canada, 56 Vic., 1893.

The Confederation Life Association of Toronto has issued a writ for $13,000 against the trustees of Grace Church of that city on account of an unpaid mortgage.

Fire Marshal Whitcomb of Boston has been retired, much to the regret of fire insurance men, and E. J. Flynn appointed by the Governor in his place. Flynn is regarded as a mere politician.

A permanent injuntion has been granted on motion of the Home Fire Insurance Company of New York against the continued use of its name by the Home Fire Co-operative Insurance Company of that city.

We have received from the Government Printer the Report of the Loan companies and Building societies of Canada for 1892, compiled by N. S. Garland, F.S.S., F.S.A., clerk of Financial Statistics at Ottawa

The Indiana Supreme Court has decided, in the case of the London and Lancashire, that the law of that State taxing foreign insurance companies 1 per cent. of their net premiums for the benefit of a fireman's pension fund is unconstitutional.

The Equitable Accident Insurance company of Denver has been placed in the hands of a receiver. It has been several years in the field and had a capital of $1,000,000. The risks have been reinsured in the Union Casualty Company.

We notice that, with his customary enterprise, Mr. Chas. E. Goad, C.E., promptly issued a diagram of the St. Mary Axe fire in London last month, giving the surroundings in detail, and which diagram appeared in the *Post Magazine* and also in the *Citizen* of London of July 22.

The last of the brood of assessment endowment concerns hatched in Massachusetts two or three years ago, to the number of nearly sixty, have been turned over to the tender mercies of the receiver, thanks to the persistent fight made against the swindles by Insurance Commissioner Merrill and the insurance press.

A case is reported from Chicago of a persistent attempt by one Robert Hicks, connected with one of the World's Fair exhibits, to maim himself so as to realize on his $20,000 accident policy. He deliberately threw himself in front of a street car, hoping to mangle his left wrist, but accident saved it. Later he put a pistol ball through the same wrist, but the doctors decided they could save it without amputation. The insurance companies, becoming suspicious, cornered Hicks, and got a confession of his deliberate design to maim himself. At the intercession of friends, he was allowed to leave the city after giving up his policy.

Our press dispatches report that the New York Life will carry $600,000 of Indianapolis city bonds, the payments on which the city was unable to make on July 1. The company is to carry the bonds until July 1894 at 7 3-10 per cent. interest, the city to have the privilege of taking up the bonds before the above date if funds will allow. The city pays the company about $2,000 commission.

A novel experience must have been that of a Canadian life insurance company which recently issued a policy making *two wives* of the assured beneficiaries under the policy, a definite sum going to the first wife as named, so and so, and in similar manner to the second wife. We need only add that the policy was issued to an applicant from a "heathen country" where the company has agencies, and where a plurality of wives is not a startling episode.

One of the outcomes of the agitation about the rights of women to accident insurance of late is the announcement by the New York managers of the Standard Life & Accident of Detroit, that the company now issues a policy to any reputable woman, agreeing therein "to pay specific indemnity to any woman, whether she be a wage-earner or not, for the loss of leg, arm, hand, foot, toe, broken bones, dislocation, etc." Those earning salary may receive weekly indemnity the same as a man.

We invite special attention to the review in another column of the very valuable work detailing the early history of fire insurance in Great Britain in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, embracing many still existing companies. The book has been compiled by Mr. F. B. Relton, for a long time secretary of the Sun Fire Office, and is one of the most valuable ever published. It is a large octavo of nearly 600 pages, and exclusively for sale in Canada by the INSURANCE AND FINANCE CHRONICLE at $6.50.

The fire which occurred at Ottawa on Saturday last in Abbott's carriage factory, extending to lumber yards and stores, threatened a wholesale conflagration, and as it was amounts to over $35,000. On the same day Fredericton, N.B., had a fire which burned the opera house, two hotels, and other property, the loss being about $20,000, with little insurance. On Sunday Minneapolis, Minn., had a great fire, scoring a loss estimated at $2,000,000. Besides mills, stores, etc., about 200 houses were burned rendering 1,500 people homeless.

This is what the *Insurance Magazine*, edited by D. W. Wilder, for several years superintendent of the Kansas Insurance Department, says: "We shall have no faith in the Mutual Reserve Fund Association until an able and competent insurance commissioner, like Merrill of Massachusetts, makes a full and real examination of the society. It has had many 'examinations,' so called. We think they were essentially dishonest. We think Harper and his methods much worse than assessmentism, and we know that assessmentism is not insurance."

According to the statistics furnished by the United States census of 1880, says the *Baltimore Underwriter*, the wealth of the nation was estimated at $43,642,000,000. According to the census of 1890, the property values of the country had climbed up to $62,600,000,000, a gain in ten years of $18,958,000,000. During these ten years, according to the *Chronicle Fire Tables*, the aggregate fire loss of the country amounted to $1,046,896,654. While the wealth of the country is thus increasing, the fire loss keeps pace in a ratio that ought to make political economists wince.

The temporary injunction secured a few days ago in New York by Manager Beddall of the Royal of London, against the Royal Co-operative Fire Insurance Company of New York, has since been made permanent by Judge O'Brien of the Supreme Court. The new concern issued its policies and circulars with the word "co-operative" in very obscure type and the word "Royal" in very large type, designed to mislead the public into believing that it was dealing with the old Royal. The ground on which Judge O'Brien sustained the injunction was that of the misleading and fraudulent use of its name by the co-operative concern.

The affairs of the People's Fire Insurance company of Manchester, N H., have been investigated by Insurance Commissioner Linehan, the result being that gross irregularities have been discovered in the handling of the funds by the president and treasurer. On January 1st, 1893, the assets were reported at $1,012,835, but Commissioner Linehan reports as now on hand in valid assets only $602,000. The president and treasurer have been deposed, and their places filled by the election of Ex Governor Tuttle as president and D. E. Shaw as treasurer. The directors will reduce the capital to $200,000 and go on with the business.

We notice that the Confederation Life Association has issued a new form of policy on the accumulated dividend plan, which has several very desirable features. Among these are incontestability after one year; the extension of the insurance after two years' full payments have been made for a definite period named in the policy; cash surrender value (20 payment life, age 35) after five annual payments, to the extent of seventy per cent. of the reserve during the second quinquennial period, eighty per cent. during the third, and ninety per cent. during the fourth or any subsequent period. On this policy the dividends accumulate, the shortest period of accumulation being fifteen years. At the end of the accumulation period, various options, liberal in provision, are granted in settlement with the insured. The policy will no doubt be a popular one.

PERSONAL MENTION.

MR ALEX. S. BROWNE of Boston, the manager of the New York Life, is on a six weeks' trip to England and Scotland.

IT IS STATED that Mr. E. Cozens Smith, general manager of the Imperial Fire of London will soon visit this country.

MR C. E. WAITE, assistant manager of the London Guarantee and Accident Company for the United States has resigned.

MR. A. G. RAMSAY, president of the Canada Life Assurance Company, spent a few days in this city recently in the interest of his company.

MR. J. J. KENNY, the managing director of the Western Assurance Company of Toronto, paid Montreal a visit a few days ago.

MR. J. C. CORBET has been appointed assistant manager of the United States Branch of the Lancashire Insurance Company with which he has for some time been connected.

MR. GEORGE STEWART, so long the general manager of the Lancashire Insurance Company, and still a member of the board of directors, has been granted an annual pension of $12,500 by the company.

MR. J. HARMAN ASHLEY, for some time past editor and manager of the *Insurance News* of Philadelphia, has assumed a large proprietary interest in the *Insurance Advocate* of that city in association with Mr. H E Roberts, its founder, and will hereafter be the editor, Mr. Roberts acting as business manager. This makes a strong combination.

MR. JAMES BOOMER, manager of the Manchester, was in the city a few days ago on his return trip to Toronto from the Lower Provinces. While there he appointed Messrs Weldon & McLain of St. John, who are also the well known agents of the Guardian, as general agents to succeed Mr D. I. Jack. The Manchester will in future confine its business to such New Brunswick towns as have water works.

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