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Illinois
Insurance
Department.

THE *Spectator* states that the Illinois Legislature has passed a Bill creating an Insurance Department to take the work of supervising insurance matters out of the hands of the State Auditor. There is to be a superintendent at a salary of \$5000 a year, and a deputy at \$3000. with such clerical force as may be needful. It is rather remarkable that Illinois has so long deferred taking a step of this kind, as such work should be done by one making that his exclusive business, and there must be an abundance of expert work requiring attention in carrying out the existing insurance laws in that State.

American
Insurance
Legislation.

A LETTER appears in *Table Talk* published in Melbourne, from Richard Teece, the General Manager and Actuary of the Australian Mutual Provident Association, in which he considers that as measures of protection, the insurance laws of the United States have proven dismal failures. Since their enactment, about 150 Life companies and 400 Fire and Marine companies have disappeared into bankruptcy; and in 1876 and 1878 respectively, two large American Life offices, namely, The Continental and the Life Association of America, went into the hands of receivers immediately after receiving certificates of solvency from the Insurance Superintendents. He considers that the best life insurance act in existence is that of Western Australia, with that of South Australia coming next. It is based on the principle of requiring from all companies the fullest publicity regarding their operations, trusting for the exposure of weakness to the criticism of a fearless and independent press.

Fires
and
Failures.

IN the financial column of our last issue we commented upon the enormous shrinkage in values of securities in the New York stock market, as pointed out by the memorable compilation of the *New York Herald*. We indicated that such a shrinkage in values was liable to affect the assets of some of the large insurance companies in the United States, whose funds are so extensively invested in that class of securities. The *Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin* thinks that the signs of the times warn merchants to give the question of company more consideration than that of rate in effecting their insurance. Not only are the monetary complications throughout the neighboring country liable to be a source of danger to the strength of their Insurance companies, but the same financial causes are apt to affect the fire losses of the companies by reason of the fact that it may be safe to ascribe a fair proportion of the enormous fire waste of recent months to financial embarrassments being provocative of attempts to defraud fire underwriters. Experience has shown that men of high standing in their communities have sometimes yielded to the temptation to apply the match when urged by press of circumstances. It is to be feared that the semi-annual statements of fire insurance companies will make a very bad showing, and there will be reductions in surplus, and an exhibit of considerable suffering from the combination of heavy fire losses and diminished security values.

Stand from
Under.

Thomas Carlisle once quoted the entire population of England as being so many millions, "mostly fools." It is extraordinary how many persons seem to believe that theory in their business, and treat the public generally as readily gullible subjects, trusting that they will have made their little pile before the crookedness of their projects be discovered. Something of this sort is apparent in a circular issued under date 20th ult., signed by one H. Weatherspon, as general manager for Canada, purporting to have opened an office at Toronto for the "British Burglary Guarantee Co." of London, England, with an alleged capital of £1,000,000. It professes to do a business of guaranteeing against losses by burglary of merchandise and valuables,

and furnishes a list of rates for different classes of risks. As the so-called head office for Canada is at a number on St. Paul street which is occupied by the Bonsecours Church, there is evidently a bug under the chip somewhere, and we are informed that investigation has failed to disclose even the existence of such a British company. It is evidently a bold attempt to steal business from the legitimate and respectable "Dominion Burglary Guarantee Co.," which numbers amongst its shareholders and directors some of our wealthiest and most responsible citizens. The public should be very chary about trusting their patronage to unknown agents; and certainly, if the so-called British company has an actual and respectable existence, it has received no license from the Department at Ottawa indicative of a compliance with the law authorizing it to begin business in Canada.

**Bonds for
Insurance in
Arkansas.**

THE Arkansas Legislature of 1891 passed an Act requiring all insurance companies doing business in Arkansas to give a bond in the sum of \$20,000 to secure the payment of losses in the State. The Act provided that the bond might be given by the resident individual sureties or by trust companies or banks. Up to that time all such bonds, with but few exceptions, had been made by local trust companies. The recent Legislature amended the Act regulating the kinds of bonds corporations could make in the State, and Attorney General Clarke has decided that bonds for insurance companies cannot be made by other than individual sureties. Many of the bonds made by the companies expire at this season of the year, and about forty of these companies had renewed their bonds through local trust companies prior to June 3, leaving about thirty that had not filed their renewals up to that date, and which will now be compelled to furnish bonds through individual sureties. Prominent among the life companies left out are the Equitable Life, New York Life, Home Life, and Massachusetts Mutual. The principal fire companies in the same attitude are the Home of New York, Glen's Falls, German-American, Continental, Orient, Connecticut, Greenwich, Fire Association New Orleans, Sun, Mutual, Southern, Teutonia, Germania, Lancashire, Scottish Union and National. It does seem as if those States in which insurance companies find the least profitable business are the very ones which possess the most assinine set of legislators to place obstacles in the way of the companies giving insurance benefits to their citizens.

**THE GUARDIAN FIRE & LIFE ASSURANCE
COMPANY, LIMITED.**

The first change to be noticed in approaching our annual review of the report of this Company is that, after an existence of 73 years, it has the addition of the word "Limited" to its title, having been registered last month as an incorporated company, limited, under the Joint Stock Companies Acts, for which purpose a private Act of Parliament was obtained to confer certain additional powers that mere registration under the Companies Acts could not have afforded:

In the Fire Department the results of the year seem to have been less satisfactory than usual. This company suffered a very heavy loss by the conflagration which took place at St John's, Newfoundland, in July last, amounting in round numbers to about \$200,000. The weak spot in their volume of business seems to have been the United States, where the fire business generally of the past year, in the experience of most companies, resulted in a loss. The report would indicate that the unprofitableness of American business has been more largely the fault of unwise competition, coupled with an undue increase of expenses, than to the occurrence of many fires taking the character of a serious conflagration. It will be remembered that this Company took over the business of the Citizens' Insurance Company, and the chairman makes special reference in his address to the Dominion branch office at Montreal opened in lieu of the mere agency which formerly existed, and states his belief that great advantage is arising from the supervision of their expert managers putting business upon a sound footing. This allusion must be very agreeable to the Canadian managers, Mr. E. P. Heaton and Mr. G. A. Roberts, than whom the interests of the Guardian could not be committed to better hands.

The total net fire premiums for 1892 amounted to \$3,012,155, being an increase over the previous year of \$170,765. The losses amounted to \$2,063,115, the ratio of losses to premiums reaching the large figure of 68½ per cent. Adding to the above sum for losses, the expenses and commissions, small items of income, taxes and bad debts, and also \$100,000 increase required in the Premium Reserve Fund to cover unexpired policies, there foots up a total from which, after deducting premiums, there results a loss of \$227,000. This loss, however, is further reduced by certain offsets of interest on the fire insurance fund and profits on investments realized, until the net deficit is \$75,500, which in turn is made good by deducting that amount from the General Fire Reserve Fund of nearly \$2,000,000, which forms that part of the fire insurance fund which has been accumulated entirely from undivided profits. A ratio of 35½ per cent. for working expenses in connection with the fire department seems to be excessive. That may be somewhat accounted for in the past year by the taking over of the "Citizens'" business, and by the company having also been put to exceptional outlays, due to substituting, in several places, branches for agencies; but it is expected that the increase of expenses arising from the latter source will be found to be more in the nature of a first cost becoming promotive of economy in the end.

In connection with the Life Branch of the business, the surplus in the life fund for the last three years is very large, and there is a satisfactory prospect of good bonuses to the policyholders at the end of the next quinquennial valuation. The amount of insurance written under 649 policies amounted to \$2,777,405, being an increase over the previous year of \$250,320. The death claims of the year, after deducting reinsurance, amounted to \$1,050,725. The funds of the Life

Department increased during the year by nearly \$350,000. The Guardian has shown a most commendable conservatism, in resisting the temptation to enter into an unhealthy competition with offices, which, by extravagant expenditure, seem sometimes apt to swell the amount of their new business at the expense of their policyholders' bonuses. Relying upon the solidity of the Company to commend itself to the public, the business done speaks for itself, while the expenses of management and commissions in the life department appear to have continued upon the same moderate scale as heretofore.

Taking into consideration the adverse results of the fire business, the dividend has been reduced 1 per cent., the amount paid being 7½ per cent.

The strength of the Guardian's finances is displayed in its premium and general fire reserves aggregating \$3,365,500; and in addition it has a paid-up cash capital of \$5,000,000.

OCCUPATION AND HABITS.

Amongst the many interesting papers which were presented at the Insurance Congress of the World's Fair last week, that of Mr. Wm. T. Standen, actuary of the United States Life Insurance Co., dealt with the "Effect of Occupation and Habits on Life Insurance Risks." After citing the number of points that have to be taken notice of in determining what constitutes a healthy life, he goes on to answer what constitutes a just and proper "selection," what degree of moral and physical impairment of risk is admissible, and whether an existing policyholder is injured by a company's accepting risks not conclusively proven to be on the same plane of excellence with himself. In speaking of those persons rejected by reason of "occupation," a large number was embraced who were engaged in the liquor traffic and in mechanical trades believed to entail too great physical and moral hazard. Out of 7345 years of exposure in which an expected death loss would have been thirty-nine, and the actual number of deaths were forty, he found the preponderance of deaths was among those who were rejected, because they were in business identified with the traffic in ardent spirits. Merchants and commercial men, bankers, brokers and professional men are all supposed to be desirable risks, while many other occupations are supposed to be dangerous, and therefore undesirable as an insurance risk, because of the physical hazard involved. But while many of the so-called dangerous occupations do involve some physical hazard, there is a law of compensation operating somewhere. He points out that the privilege of out-door employment and the exercise of the entire muscular system, with the brain force needed to enable every skilled mechanic to faithfully perform his work, induce a condition of vigor and health that the sedentary habits and overpowering brain exhaustion of the banker deprive him of

Taking the experience of the same Company, whose statistics form a basis of his calculations, he finds that the question of personal habits cuts a far more serious figure than the question of occupation. The applicant

for insurance, whose habits are vicious in respect of excessive eating, drinking or smoking, should be debarred from obtaining insurance in every well-regulated life office. Out of a calculation of rejections, because of unfavorable personal habits, in which there were 7,285 years of exposure, calling for 90 deaths, the actual deaths were 200. The general deductions made by Mr. Standen from an examination of statistics upon the action of companies in relation to different occupations seems to be that if we exclude those engaged in the liquor business, and also exceptionally hazardous risks like aeronauts, divers, manufacturers of explosives and a few others,—that nearly all other occupations, a vast number of which are commonly so severely discriminated against, can be safely written upon at ordinary rates, and without doing violence to the interests of other policy-holders, provided the physical risk be perfect and the applicant *a man of good mental power and moral force*. This last qualification should be strongly emphasized, for an intelligent man, who possesses the advantage of a good common school education, can much more be safely trusted in a dangerous occupation than a man of very low intellectual calibre. The suggestion is worth noting, that whenever a case is in doubt, by reason of the stated occupation of the applicant being hazardous, the executive officer of a company could be greatly assisted by a careful inquiry along the line of the applicant's intelligence. It is true that companies are more or less obliged to have a general rule upon the subject of occupations and habits, but with freedom left to the executive to use their judgment about acceptance, there is no doubt that a vast majority of the occupations that are, as a class, always discriminated against and frequently rejected might in many individual cases, be written with perfect safety upon the ordinary plan and rates.

A MODERN WONDER AND ITS DANGERS.

The intimate relation between fire insurance and the various forms of applied electricity is now pretty generally understood by the public as well as by the underwriters. The extent to which the fire hazard is affected, either adversely or favorably, by modern electrical appliances is very imperfectly realized, however, by the general public and scarcely understood by the majority of underwriters themselves. So rapid has been the growth of the telephone, the electric light, and the use of electricity as a street car motor, and so numerous are the other uses to which this subtle force has been and is constantly being applied, that it is very difficult to realize the entire revolution which has taken place in one short decade or to comprehend the possibilities and estimate the probabilities of the next ten years. It is for this reason that the electrical exhibit at the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago is one of its most important features, if not the most important feature presented. That an entire building covering more than five acres of ground, and equipped with extensive galleries on all of its four sides, should be not only set apart for electrical exhibits but completely filled with electrical appliances, scarcely a dozen of which were

known ten years ago, is an object lesson on the subject which will go far to educate the public in this important branch of the world's latest science.

The millions of people who have visited and will visit the Exposition will all carry away with them some impressions, however vague, of the wide range of uses to which electricity is now applied, while a considerable percentage of the vast throng will have stored their minds with valuable information by a close study of the various exhibits in detail. Here is the focus of the electrical world, where the spectator may stand and examine the excellencies or defects, the safeguards or the hazards of the numerous appliances representing the genius of every country in the world. Of course the United States and Canada lead, both in the variety of uses and in the extent to which electricity is applied to practical commercial and economical purposes, whatever may be true as to the perfection of mechanism and greater safety of installation shown by some of the countries of Europe. It is not strange that the birth-place of the telephone, the electric light and the electric railway should outstrip the rest of the world in the rapid growth of these modern wonders. Neither is it strange that this rapid growth has begotten inferior construction and defective installation, creating a fire hazard comparatively unknown in England and of little serious consequence in France and Germany.

As an illustration of this rapid growth, some statistics of the telephone, which we find most ready of access at this writing, are interesting, though it is probable that the increase in the various applications of electricity to lighting purposes and as a motor to move cars and machinery has been much more rapid than the telephone. For instance, while the number of telephones in use a year or so after the introduction of the instrument was about 5,000 in the whole of the United States and Canada, the number now in use reaches over 560,000, with about 240,000 subscribers, as compared with less than 50,000 in 1881. In 1881 the miles of wires in use were about 30,000, while at the beginning of 1893 they had increased to 450,000 miles. One feature of telephone development is a gratifying one, and shows that the movement for greater safety in the installation of the wires is pretty well under way. In 1885 in the United States and Canada only 1,225 miles of telephone wires had been placed underground, while on January 1, 1893, there were of these underground wires 91,500 miles.

The undergrounding of the telephone wires, in common with other electric wires in the large cities, has been brought about mainly through the influence of the fire underwriters, and it will be largely through their continued exertions that all electric wires will in the near future be placed underground in the principal cities. With the excellent results demonstrated by the already extensive burying of the wires, and with the general public heartily in favor of the abolition of the overhead system, the underwriters have only to present a united front on this question to make the conduit system general. With the rapidly extending application of electricity to almost every department of indus-

try, and with the necessarily imperfect methods of this application in many cases at the initial stage, it becomes underwriters everywhere to exercise the utmost vigilance to guard against the development of new hazards. It is probable that in time the general use of electricity will be so regulated and controlled that the general fire hazard will be diminished rather than increased, but it is clear that in this country that time has not yet come.

THE ONTARIO INSURANCE INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

"Detailed Report of the Inspector of Insurance and Registrar of Friendly Societies, 1892," is the annual bound volume respecting the various organizations authorized to undertake contracts of insurance, indemnity, or guarantee, in the Province of Ontario, and is issued under the direction of Inspector and Registrar Hunter. The report is divided into three sections with their respective indices. Class A comprises Registered Dominion Licensees, being insurance corporations or companies licensed and inspected by the Dominion of Canada, and registered by the Province of Ontario for the transaction of insurance in that province; the Report relates to their mode and place of incorporation, statutory powers, duties, rights and obligations, internal organization, the relation of the members *inter se*, the liabilities of the members to creditors of the companies, the kind or kinds of insurance for which the companies are now registered in Ontario, and the extent to which assets have been deposited in various countries as special security for policy-holders of the same.

Class B consists of Provincial Licensees, inspected and registered by Ontario for the transaction of insurance therein, and gives the usual details required pursuant to the provisions of the Ontario Insurance Act, for joint-stock life, joint-stock fire, cash-mutual fire and strictly mutual fire companies, as also of mutual live-stock insurance companies.

Class C relates to Friendly Societies registered by the Province of Ontario, and explains their mode and place of incorporation, the statutes and instruments under which the Societies were constituted and those by which they are now governed, and the kind of insurance or insurance benefits undertaken, also showing *inter alia* whether or not the certificate holders generally are secured by a reserve fund, and how it is maintained, whether held to any extent in Ontario, and, if any, how much, how invested, and by whom held or controlled.

The report shows that of the companies under Class "A," 5 are engaged in accident business; 3 fire and inland marine; 24 life, level premium; 6 assessment plan; 27 fire; 2 guarantee; 1 steam boiler; 1 ocean and inland marine; 1 fire, ocean, inland marine and life; 3 plate glass; 3 fire and life; 1 fire, life and inland marine; 1 guarantee and accident; 1 accident and plate glass; 2 ocean marine (interim registry); 2 life and accident; and 1 fire, ocean and inland marine. The foregoing all stood registered as Dominion licensees at 26th January, 1893.

There are 74 Provincial (Ontario) companies detailed under class "B" in the report, comprising 60 fire

mutual; 6 cash-mutual (fire); 2 joint-stock fire; 2 life; 1 fire, mutual and guarantee; 1 fire and plate glass, mutual and stock; 1 fire, stock and mutual; and 1 live stock mutual. The annual returns published are for the year ending 31st December, 1891, and the returns for the year ended 1892 will show the absence of some of the fire mutuals whose existence has proved untimely.

The third class, dealing with Friendly Societies, shows under registration, at 26th January, 1893, 34 whose benefits relate to sickness and death; 8 death only; 1 fidelity; 1 sickness, disability and death; 1 accident and death; 6 sickness and death, also life-time benefits; 2 sickness, disability and death, also endowment; 1 sickness and death endowment; 1 disability or death; and 1 sickness, accident disability, and death.

A noticeable feature of the smaller Provincial companies in particular, as well as of these Friendly Societies, is their attempt to cover such a diversity of business. There is a growing tendency now-a-days in many departments of practical affairs, to find the greatest efficiency and economy in the adoption of specialties. The medical man whose proficiency is in surgery, makes his work more important when he drops the general practice of medicine; the lawyer whose best successes are gained in handling commercial law, confines himself to it by eliminating criminal or divorce cases from his practice; and the merchant who would reap the rewards of close-buying in competition with his fellows, is liable to lose the ability to so closely keep track of the fluctuations in mercantile commodities, whenever he branches off into outside manufacturing enterprises at the same time.

Experience is likely to teach Insurance concerns the triteness of being cautioned against endeavors at covering too many phases of risk—and in proportion as specialties are made of one branch of insurance instead of three or half-a-dozen concurrently, the more healthy will their future reports appear and their beneficiaries be better assured of ample protection.

THE NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

This is one of those British companies whose business it is always a pleasure to have an opportunity of reviewing. The Fifty-Seventh Annual Report presented at its meeting in Aberdeen last month shows that there has been a steady advance all along the line in revenue, income and accumulations. That they have been able to show an increase in fire premiums of \$107,315 over the previous year, despite the disastrous conflagrations in which they were interested in Japan, Newfoundland and Chicago, is quite remarkable. The average loss experienced by the Company from the commencement of their business is only 59½ p.c. to the premium income. The fire premiums received last year amounted to \$3,553,810. The losses amounted to \$2,400,500, or 67.6 p.c. of the premiums. The expenses of management, including all commissions and charges, were 32.9 p.c. of the premiums, which is 1 p. c. better than for the previous year. It will be remembered that in our abstract of the business of insurance companies in Canada for the year

1892, it was seen that the Northern had reduced its ratio of losses incurred to premiums received to 55.13 p.c. as against 59.23 p.c. in 1891. In the 17 years from 1876 to 1892 the work done by this Company in the United States shows an aggregate income of \$13,026,307, expenditures \$12,063,388, premiums \$12,367,956, and losses \$7,788,118, with the ratio of American losses to premiums during the 17 year period being 63 p.c. This Company has always pursued an admirable policy of holding large reserves. In addition to the balance of profit and loss account there is a reserve fund of \$4,500,000 applicable to the fire business in hand, and the proportion of fire premiums set aside to meet future liabilities under current policies amounts to no less than \$1,185,000.

As the Northern does not conduct a life business in the Dominion, we do not make any special reference to that branch of its affairs; suffice it to say, however, that the new assurance reached \$1,964,200, and the total income of the year, including interest, from the Life Department was \$1,591,025, while the claims amounted to \$897,615. The total accumulations of this Company from its establishment in 1836 to the end of 1892 amounts to the immense total of \$20,732,000.

It must be a source of satisfaction to the able manager of the Canadian head office, Mr. Robert W. Tyre, of this city, to be the representative of a Company for which he has no apologies to make, but in regard to whose status he can say everything that is commendable. We might also add that we deem it to the advantage of the Northern Assurance Company to be so intelligently and energetically represented by the gentleman referred to here. It is to be noticed, as an evidence of the loss-paying power of the Company, that the total distribution of the year, \$337,500, has been paid by interest upon investments and with no encroachment upon capital.

LIMITATION OF THE RIGHTS TO SUE UNDER THE FIRE POLICY.

While the adjudications of the Courts of last resort in the matter of when the right to sue by the claimant commences—whether from and after the day of the occurrence of the fire, or after the proofs of loss have been duly executed and served upon the company—have not been entirely harmonious, yet all unite in declaring the limitation of time when such suit shall be brought, to be legal and necessary for the safety of the companies, as it simply exacts promptitude on the part of the insured in the prosecution of his legal remedies in cases where controversies may arise between insurer and insured. Hence a failure to bring suit within the time limited by the terms of the contract, as a rule, is a bar to recovery afterwards, for equity will not assist one whose condition is attributable solely to want of diligence which may be fairly expected from a reasonable person.

This limitation clause is of marine origin, being found in policies as early as 1433, where the right to sue is limited to periods from six, twelve and eighteen months and even to three years, according to the locality where the shipwreck or damage may have

occurred. The customary clause of the fire policy reads as follows: "Nor unless such suit shall be commenced within twelve months next after the loss *shall occur*." Some policies make the limit six months.

The question at issue between Court decisions is as to the equitable construction of this provision of the policy; whether, as before stated, the termination of the right to sue shall apply to the exact date when the loss "occurred," or to the time where, under the subsequent stipulation, the loss, if recognized by the insurer, shall be payable. There are leading adjudications upon both sides of the question, some of which are herewith submitted.

In the case of *Johnson vs. Ins. Co.*, Sup. Court of Illinois (cited 8 Ins. Law Jour. 617), the Court says:

"When did the loss occur? Manifestly at the time the fire destroyed the property. In what consisted the loss? Obviously the destruction of the building by fire. We are wholly unable to conceive that language could have been used that could have rendered the meaning plainer. * * * It is insisted, however, that the clause in the policy, that "the loss was to be paid sixty days after due notice and proof of the same should be made by the assured and received at the office of the company, limits and curtails the after inserted condition prohibiting the bringing of an action more than twelve months after the loss should occur. We are unable to perceive that it controls this condition. If either has the effect, it would seem that the latter controls the former. The two clauses, considered together, obviously provide that the company shall have sixty days within which to make payment after notice and proofs of loss, but in no event should a suit or action be commenced after the expiration of twelve months from the date of the fire producing the loss. Any other meaning attached to the language, it seems to us, would be strained, unreasonable, and in direct violation of the plain intention of the parties clearly expressed."

This ruling of the Superior Court of Illinois is supported by the Sup. Court of Rhode Island (7 R. I. 301), wherein is to be found the following:

"Where a period of limitation is stipulated for in a policy of insurance, it is binding upon the parties, and the provisions and qualifications of the general Statute of limitation of the State have no application. *The Court have no right to import into the contract of the parties qualifying terms which they have not seen fit to adopt.*" See also *Fire Underwriters' Text Book*, § 1179a, for authorities.

A recent decision of the Sup. Court of North Dakota makes the following sensible, lucid ruling upon the intention of this clause. The Court say:

"What right has any tribunal to find hidden somewhere in the contract a privilege to have the full time to sue after the cause of action has accrued, when the policy gives it only from the time the loss occurs?"

"There are two distinct provisions: one that the insured shall not sue before a certain time, and another that he shall not sue after a certain time. These do not clash. They merely necessitate the construction that the intention was to give the insured such period

in which to maintain his action after he could sue, as would be left after deducting from the time limited, the time which must elapse before the right to sue would accrue. But we find in these cases this very extraordinary reasoning: They assert that this doctrine will often kill the action before it could have life. The answer is short and simple. Every limitation in a contract is void which does not leave the plaintiff a reasonable time in which to sue after his right to sue has become perfect.

"When an insurance company has declared that a suit must be brought within forty days after a loss has occurred, and that no action shall be maintained until thirty days after proof of loss, the duty of the Court is not to interpolate into the contract a provision that the limitation runs from the date the cause of action accrues in place of one expunged by the same process, to wit: the provision that the time runs from the time the loss occurs, which is the date of the fire: but the court should invoke against the company the rule that a right of action shall not, in effect, be destroyed by a limitation which leaves the plaintiff an unnecessarily short time to sue after his cause of action has accrued and declare the limitation clause void. If other provisions of the policy make it appear that in every case a reasonable time will not be left after the right to sue has become perfect, the limitation is void. * * * And if the company has induced the insured to believe that the loss will be paid, or that the limitation will not be insisted upon until it is too late to sue, the limitation is waived. Thus the insured is fully protected by the application of known and established principles. The contract is construed as it is written, and the time when the limitation begins, if at all, is fixed and not uncertain."

In the case of *Blair vs. Sovereign Ins. Co.*, S. C. Nova Scotia (7 Can. Law Jour. 410), the clause provided for commencement of suit "within six months after this loss or damage occurs." The Court held that under this condition, notwithstanding another condition deferring the bringing of any action until the expiration of sixty days, from the completion of the proofs of loss, the plaintiff was precluded from recovering. Also, that the words "loss occurs" must be taken "to relate to the time of the occurrence of the fire."

Upon the whole, it is evident that not only is the weight of present authority in consonance with North Dakota Court ruling, but the tendency of other courts is now toward the correctness of that court ruling.

ANCIENT ORDER UNITED WORKMEN.

The annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of this Order was held this week in the city of Toronto, with representatives present from all parts of the United States and the Dominion. It will be remembered that considerable enterprise has been displayed in pushing the business of the Order in this country upon the assurance that \$12.00 per annum would be the highest possible or probable assessment to which members could be subjected for \$2000 policies. The difference between promises and practice will be a disappointment

we fear, to many who have been misled by this form of insurance, for we observe that the Grand Lodge has decided on a maximum rate of assessment for the next three years for the various jurisdictions as follows:— Pennsylvania, Grand Lodge, \$30; Ohio, \$30; Kentucky, \$30; Indiana, \$30; Iowa, \$17; New York, \$20; Illinois, \$27; Missouri, \$27; Minnesota, \$19; Wisconsin, \$26; Tennessee, \$30; Michigan, \$19; California \$30; Georgia, Alabama, \$30; Kansas \$16; Ontario, \$16; Oregon, \$28; Massachusetts, \$6; Maryland, \$22; Texas, \$30; Nevada, \$28; Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona, \$25; Nebraska, \$16; the Dakotas \$16; Montana \$23; Washington, \$19; New Jersey, \$20, British Columbia, \$20; Manitoba and N.W.T., \$16; Utah, Wyoming and Idaho, \$22; Delaware, \$17. Supreme Lodge jurisdiction, \$30.

We deal with facts as we find them Not only do these bank statements, but the utterances of the several bank presidents and managers at recent annual meetings, all go to show that there can be no truthful business reasons for depicting the country in as deplorable a light as certain politicians, possibly for purposes of their own, have been doing at the Liberal Convention recently held in Ottawa. Judging by the picture presented by official figures, our commercial productions are in good demand, save one or two commodities; manufacturing is better than in the past; the prospects for agricultural products are good except for stock raising; lumber is active, and mining in many of its branches is remunerative. If the condition of the farmer, who is so constantly represented as standing in need of sympathy, be compared to-day with twenty years ago, an extraordinary improvement will be found in his education, personal comforts, farm implements, house furnishings and out-buildings,—while his stock are cared for with as much difference in their comfort and accommodation as is the change between the ordinary first-class coach of that period and the pullman car of to-day.

In business affairs a man is usually very particular to know precisely what an article is going to cost him before he purchases it. It is strange that so many persons, others so careful to calculate their obligations in advance, are found to be willing on the score of alleged cheapness to take so-called insurance contracts which are certain to far exceed the promised expense as the figures in these assessments would indicate, besides the almost equal certainty of finding their contracts worthless in the end.

Too much heed cannot be given to the observations of our leading financiers. Banks having branches scattered over the whole business portion of the country are careful to select their most active and reliable men to be put in charge. These points being in daily touch with the head office, the General Manager, by the time the annual meeting arrives, has been enabled to study the whole situation, and from his bird's-eye view of the commercial condition of affairs is enabled to speak intelligently upon every line of trade. Apart from the recent observations of bank presidents and managers, all of which have been so suggestive of prosperity, although toned with sugges-

Financial and Statistical.

THE MAY BANK STATEMENT.

Looking at the showing of the Canadian banks for the month of May, as presented in tabular form in this issue, it is satisfactory to point out that there seems to be nothing affording cause for alarm or despondency to the mercantile community. It is not our province to cast a shadow over the evident results indicated by figures.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE CHARTERED BANKS IN CANADA.

<i>Assets.</i>	31st May, 1893.	30th April, 1893.	31st May, 1892.	Increase and Decrease for month.	Increase and Decrease for year.
Specie and Dominion Notes.....	\$19,230,156	\$19,378,005	\$17,497,266	Dec. \$ 147,849	Inc. \$ 1,732,890
Notes of and cheques on other Banks.....	7,066,104	6,127,137	7,083,973	Inc. 938,967	Dec. 17,869
Due from American Banks and Branches.....	17,814,497	17,165,455	19,572,562	Inc. 649,042	Dec. 1,758,065
Due from British Banks and Branches.....	1,182,665	2,324,891	728,373	Dec. 1,142,226	Inc. 454,292
Canadian Municipal Securities and Brit., Prov. or } For'gn. or Colonial other than Dominion..... }	9,028,757	8,755,940	6,867,457	Inc. 272,817	Inc. 2,161,300
Railway Securities.....	5,759,032	5,601,042	6,669,111	Inc. 157,990	Dec. 910,079
Loans on Stocks and Bonds on call.....	15,213,352	16,469,427	15,393,129	Dec. 1,256,075	Dec. 180,044
Current Loans to the Public.....	207,685,450	206,789,141	193,311,856	Inc. 896,309	Inc. 14,373,594
Overdue debts.....	2,041,068	2,179,295	2,126,476	Dec. 138,227	Dec. 85,408
Total Assets.....	303,169,653	302,415,455	286,543,931	Inc. 754,198	Inc. 16,625,722
<i>Liabilities.</i>					
Bank notes in circulation.....	31,927,342	32,633,073	31,383,218	Dec. 705,731	Inc. 544,124
Due to Dominion Government.....	2,922,671	2,516,986	2,990,639	Inc. 405,685	Dec. 67,968
Due to Provincial Governments.....	3,361,053	3,056,184	2,564,352	Inc. 304,869	Inc. 796,701
Deposits made by the public.....	170,410,831	168,759,094	157,439,129	Inc. 1,681,737	Inc. 13,001,702
Do payable on demand or after notice between Bks..	2,656,417	2,526,592	3,037,074	Inc. 129,825	Dec. 380,657
Due to American Banks and Branches.....	163,758	139,765	169,841	Inc. 2,993	Dec. 6,033
Due to British Banks and Branches.....	5,304,346	6,101,647	4,398,441	Dec. 597,301	Inc. 1,105,902
Total Liabilities.....	218,102,617	216,266,317	203,016,245	Inc. 1,834,300	Inc. 15,086,372
<i>Capital.</i>					
Capital paid up.....	61,950,654	61,947,404	61,554,098	Inc. 3,250	Inc. 396,556
Reserve Fund.....	25,981,362	25,359,982	24,599,046	Inc. 621,380	Inc. 1,382,316
Directors' Liabilities.....	7,443,137	7,361,304	6,499,324	Inc. 81,833	Inc. 947,813

Deposits with Dominion Government for security of note circulation being 5 p.c. on average maximum circulation for year ending 30th June, 1892, \$1,761,259.

tions as to prudence and carefulness for the future, the figures added to the "Rest" of the various banks show \$621,380, besides paying a fair dividend and setting aside goodly sums for profit and loss account. The above amount is distributed amongst the banks as follows:—

	Reserve Fund.
Imperial Bank of Canada.....	\$ 76,380.00
Canadian Bank of Commerce.....	100,000.00
Ontario Bank.....	30,000.00
Standard Bank.....	25,000.00
Trader's Bank.....	20,000.00
Bank of Toronto.....	1,000.00
Banque Jacques Cartier.....	40,000.00
Bank of Hochelaga.....	30,000.00
Merchants' Bank of Canada.....	175,000.00
Union Bank of Canada.....	25,000.00

With banking institutions so generally prosperous, it is an affront upon common sense to state that the country is in a condition of constant regression.

The past month has been of special interest in financial circles, owing to the number of annual bank meetings which have been held, and have afforded the heads of these institutions opportunities of presenting to stockholders, not only information about their own affairs, but also in some instances broad and statesman-like reviews of the financial condition of this and other countries. Perhaps only a few annual addresses are looked forward to with more expectation than that of the General Manager of the Merchants Bank of Canada, because of his reputation both as a financier and a student and writer upon monetary matters. It would appear that the spirit of competition so rife in the business world is making itself felt disadvantageously in the banking business as well, for Mr. Hague points out that with their constantly increasing business, involving a constantly increasing expenditure, they find a constantly decreasing ratio of net profit to the business done. We presume there would be found the same difficulties in regard to agreements about rules and rates amongst bankers as in other circles of business. Competition in rates and the various schemes for securing an advantage, such as rebates and return commissions have been the bane of the Insurance business; and we suppose there would be more or less difficulty in maintaining amongst bankers such a basis of agreement on rates, valuable value of security and limitations of credits, as would eliminate opportunities of affording exceptional advantages to special classes of customers to attract their accounts. The keynote of Mr. Hague's address seems to have been the dangers of competition and the difficulties of profit in business. Referring to the competition of merchants, there is no doubt that were bankers to exercise a closer oversight upon the accounts of their customers, a reprehensible method of business, which is only made possible through co-operation with the discounting facilities of their bankers, by which merchants commonly offer customers the temptation of being carried on credit for a practically indefinite period, would not be possible, and would thus stop the practice of purchasing goods sometimes from six to twelve months before they can possibly be required in stock.

It was to be expected, of course, that reference would be made to the holocaust of bank failures in Australia, and a moral was drawn from the mistaken course of living on too much borrowed money. Five or six hundred millions of money borrowed by those colonies was spent in a population far less than that of Canada. Mr. Hague pointed out how closely the conditions incident to the opening up of Winnipeg and Manitoba had been akin to those which have proven so disastrous in Australia, and made it the occasion of a complimentary allusion to those features in banking laws of Canada which alone saved some of our institutions from the perils of a similar fate. It is certainly creditable to the far-sightedness of Canadian bankers that they had the stamina to resist the temptation so freely pressed upon them to accept almost unlimited deposits offered from Great Britain. As it is now, the banks of Canada are doing a legitimate business upon their legitimately invested capital and upon the deposits of their own people. Such a plethora of money as could be obtained by bidding for outside deposits would have created a fictitious basis of stability in this country. Mr. Hague touched very concisely upon the reason for Canadian banks being interested in the Silver question, with which the United States is now being compelled to grapple. It was a self-evident truth that our banks could not afford to conduct financial operations as freely with the neighboring country, paying them in gold or its equivalent, so long as there was a possibility of the contracts with the United States being returnable in a current money worth 35 to 40 p.c. less than our own currency.

In another column we present the Annual Report of the Merchants Bank of Canada for the business of the twelve months ending 31st May. The net earnings were \$604,395, which paid dividends of \$419,166, added \$175,000 to the Reserve, and \$10,299 to profit and loss account. In addition to the ordinary business earnings, there were sold \$200,000 of the new stock, which brought the paid up capital up to \$6,000,000, the sale realizing \$90,000 above the par value, which profit was also carried to the reserve. Altogether, therefore, there was the splendid showing of \$265,000 carried to reserve, which latter now amounts to \$2,900,000, or 48 per cent. of the capital which is \$6,000,000. The statement is one which must be in every way most gratifying to the shareholders, and indicates a carefulness of management and shrewdness in the employment of capital which are thoroughly in keeping with the reputation of its management.

In a recent financial article upon the monthly bank statement of Canada, we remarked that the bank notes in circulation were a test of commercial activity. The *St. Catharines, Ont., Journal*, with an evident hankering after political thunder, takes our figures, comparing the circulation for each month of March since 1883, and deduces that the country is less prosperous than a decade ago, if measured by the volume of bank circulation being \$1,086,930. less in March of this year than in 1883. The circulation of 1883 was \$34,517, 913, while

the average annual circulation in the intervening years, according to the figures upon which the *Journal* makes its comments, was less than 31½ million dollars, until March this year, when it was \$33,430,883.

Reflection might have suggested to the *Journal* some unusual cause for the circulation being greater in that year than in any year since; but they apparently seize upon the circumstance for an illustration of the alleged decadence of prosperity under a National Policy of protection. As a matter of fact, the cause of the bank notes having reached such a height in the last half of 1882 and the first half of 1883 was due to the Canadian Pacific Railway's vigorous commencement to complete the road within a shortened period, thus bringing large plant into the country, involving enlarged necessary expenditures at that time. This was an undertaking which was quite exceptional in its character, and therefore not one to be fairly included in the ordinary volume of business which might be annually looked for.

We have kept bank note circulation before our readers to illustrate the elasticity of our Banking system. The only satisfactory and important proof of the amount of the volume of trade, when gauged by note circulation, is in taking the months of September, October and November, and grouping them. The figures of other months are too liable to be affected by the variability of the seasons or the condition of country roads. Probably the figures best adapted to prove the steady growth of the country are the deposits, the savings of the people. Note circulation is not intended as a proof of advancement so much as a test of the productions of the year.

When business is confined to smaller shipments and purchases during what is called the dull season, specie and Dominion notes will be found to run up; only a couple of months ago the amount under these headings increased over three millions during the month. The *Journal* advances a theory in regard to money, and moans a lot of phrases about bank monopolies, in a tone which reminds one very much of the prejudice which is characteristic of that section of the Western press of the neighboring country, whose monetary theories in the interest of the farming community have demanded that a prominence be given to silver, such as have well nigh swamped the interests of the very class of persons most responsible for the Legislation which Congress is now likely to repeal.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Bank of Commerce was held in Toronto last week. They started the year with a credit of \$19,549.19, the net profits ending 31st May were \$536,511.93; a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum was appropriated absorbing \$420,000.00, and \$100,000.00 were transferred to rest account. \$12,500 were written off for bank premises and furniture, and a balance carried to profit and loss

of \$23,561.12. Canada has very many bright men amongst its list of general managers of banks; but the annual addresses of Mr. B. E. Walker, the general manager of this Bank, are coming to be regarded as the most lucid, statesmanlike and prophetic utterances of each year. He always has something interesting to say, and is thoroughly educational to the mercantile community. His remarks emphasize what we have been so strongly contending recently, that there is not much ground for complaint in the condition of business in Canada as a whole. In the extent to which the farmer buys and pays for agricultural implements, Mr. Walker finds a decided evidence of prosperity, especially in Ontario, where farmers paid their paper without renewal to the extent of over 96 per cent. The review of the export trade, lumber and agricultural interests was most reassuring in its character; and he made the point that whatever loss of trade there may have been with the United States, because of the McKinley tariff, it has been far more than counterbalanced by the splendid growth of the export trade to Great Britain. Italy, as well as Australia, have had serious difficulties, largely through bankers failing to appreciate that land banking and mercantile banking are two very different things, and that the former is too risky for a legitimate banker to undertake. After referring to the lamentable state of affairs in the United States and the importance of their seeking relief through the repeal of the Sherman silver-purchase bill, he concluded by saying:—

“Looking around us, while every caution is necessary, we do not see anything in the outlook which is not hopeful for Canada. It will be strange if, when the dust has blown away, British investors do not see in our steadiness and sound financial position good reason to invest in this country some of that constantly increasing income which in the past has flowed so easily to the southern half of the world.”

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing-houses for the week ended with Thursday 2nd., compared with those of the previous week:—

	June 22	June 15.
Montreal.....	\$10,656,099	\$10,622,918
Toronto.....	5,702,773	6,103,346
Halifax.....	943,322	1,030,743
Hamilton.....	721,431	737,060
Total clearings....	\$18,023,625	\$18,494,067

Aggregate balances last week, \$2,464,387; this week, \$2,366,669.

The percentage of net earnings on the paid-up capital and rest of the leading Canadian banks for the past year, shows results as follows:—Bank d'Hochelaga, 9.24; Traders Bank of Canada, 8.50; Imperial Bank of Canada, 8.14; Bank of Toronto, 7.70; Canadian Bank of Commerce, 7.66; Dominion Bank, 7.44; Bank of Montreal, 7.33; Ontario Bank, 7.17; Merchants Bank of Canada, 6.99; Union Bank of Canada, 6.75; Eastern Townships Bank, 6.38; Standard Bank of Canada, \$6.19; Quebec Bank, 6.19; Bank of Hamilton, 4.90.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by Correspondents

MONTREAL, June 23rd, 1893.

To the *Editor* of the INSURANCE AND FINANCE CHRONICLE:—

DEAR SIR,—In looking over a recent number of the *New York Spectator*, I found an interesting table entitled "Fire Underwriting, profits and losses of 54 millionaire companies in a decade." The figures report the business of thirteen New York State companies, twenty-two companies of other States and nineteen foreign companies. The summing up shows that these companies received in premiums from the first of January, 1883, to the first of January, 1893, an aggregate of \$745,135,621, and in the same period paid losses aggregating \$113,378,301; the expenses of that period are cited as \$255,525,485, and their total expenditures, not including dividends, \$698,903,786. The column devoted to "profit" on business during the ten years is a blank as to results, being overborne by the column of losses on business to the tune of \$5,122,578, and the ratio of loss to premiums is shown to be 70 per cent. From this it would appear that insufficient premiums were collected to pay losses and expenses, and provide properly for the risks on the books. If dividends have been paid, we are told that they were earned, not by the underwriting but by the banking branch of the business, and that the funds thus used would have been more profitably and safely employed in other directions.

Now, I for one, as a layman on the outside of the insurance business, am obliged to confess that there is something very curious in all this cry about the unprofitableness of fire insurance underwriting. No business man in his senses would for ten years in succession deliberately carry on a business in which he was losing money, and it is rather mysterious that, if these large insurance companies would have us believe they are so rapidly on the road to the poorhouse, they still seem nothing loth to continue this business of losing money. I am free to admit that if insurance companies do not obtain sufficiently high premiums to indemnify them for the risk of carrying insurance they ought to increase their rates, for insurance is a commodity whose seller ought to expect a profit upon it, for the same reason that a merchant looks for a profit upon the sale of his goods. I am inclined to think that the fire insurance business could tell a different tale if there were not such a large army of high commission-earning agents and salaried officials, whose livelihood is not prejudiced so long as their companies will write insurance. If losses occur, it does not seem to suggest itself to these insurance managers that the real trouble with their business may be inside rather than outside. If the ratio of net loss on total business is 70 per cent., and the ratio of expenses to premiums received be 34 per cent., it would seem high time to cut down on the latter item. Being but a novice, perhaps this suggestion would not be taken kindly in underwriting circles, and I presume it will hardly advantage you to open your columns to much in advocacy of this view of the question. At the same time if the writing of this letter could have the effect of bringing out the true inwardness of the merits of the question at issue between a public wanting protection and an insurance fraternity not caring to do business at a loss, it seems to me that some of the cobwebs might soon be cleared away.

Yours,

DOUBTING THOMAS.

Notes and Items.

The Supreme Court of Kansas has decided that the funds deposited by the Insurance companies with the State Treasurer are taxable. It is thought that Kansas companies will suffer more than companies of any other State.

The Caledonian has re-insured the Boston business of the Transatlantic Fire.

It is reported by the *Post Magazine* that arrangements are likely to go into effect for the transfer of the England Assurance Institution to the Imperial Life Company.

We have to thank W. M. Halm, superintendent of Insurance for the State of Ohio, for copy of the report of that department on the business of the Insurance companies, other than Life, of the year 1892 in that State.

An attempt has been made by the Illinois Legislature to pass a valued-policy bill, but it is thought that the Governor will veto it. If it becomes law, the companies will either have to advance rates or discontinue business until the law is repealed.

Electric wiring is receiving considerable attention in Texas, where the interests of the companies in this particular have hitherto been very much neglected. A special agent advises that the companies heretofore opposed to the Jalonik Tariff are evidencing more interest in rate exactions than heretofore. The North British it is thought, will come into line with the majority later on.

The Dominion Government naturally takes much interest in the new route to Australia, via Canada, and the Department of Trade and Commerce has supplied the various Canadian Boards of Trade with a *precis* of the tariffs of the Australasian colonies in order that exporters may know what duties are imposed upon goods which may be shipped from Canada by the new steamship line.

The Dominion Minister of Trade and Commerce has received a communication from the High Commissioner in England, stating that owing to the continued absence of rain in England, the hay crop in the southern part of the United Kingdom is likely to be short this year. The dry season is also likely to affect the serial crops, particularly barley, and Sir Charles Tupper says there is every probability of a good market for Canadian barley, provided it is of good quality.

The Insurance Observer of London understands that the Royal Insurance Company is at present practically declining to lend money on mortgage of land or to renew mortgages falling due. In the course of the last ten years, a good deal of insurance money has been lost over investments in Irish land, and it is very evident, in the opinion of some people, a great deal is likely to be lost during the next ten years in English land. The Royal management is credited with being thoroughly wide-awake, and its action in this matter is a significant sign of the times.

The Insurance Monitor, in an article on insurance education, says the average insurance clerk is an automaton, and is bid to do a certain thing, and left to turn his crank day after day and year after year without ever being told why he does it. One of these days he may find out, and in due time come into an understanding of the relation of things, but with how much more satisfaction and how much less liability of mistake would he have worked all those years if he had known some of the reasons why. The *Monitor* submits the suggestion of a School of Fire Insurance, to be established in New York, giving an extended course of lectures, say one or two a week, to run through the winter months. There are 100 men within easy reach of the metropolis, taking in the cities of Boston, Hartford and Philadelphia, with New York, who could prepare lectures covering every conceivable feature of routine and practice in the office and the field.

A very useful Life Insurance Chart for 1893 has been published by the *Investigator* of Chicago, which contains in handy form a variety of tabular information relative to the amount of business done in each State, as well as in Canada and foreign countries, by United States corporations, together with many important facts relative to the standing and business importance of the companies themselves.

The United States Review says that a case, the outcome of which promises to become interesting to accident agents is that of a "Gripman" employed on a Kansas City Cable car, who accidentally swallowed a small cockle burr while hastily drinking water. A few days later he suddenly became ill and after excessive vomiting died. An autopsy revealed the fact that the stomach was badly lacerated and inflamed by the burr. The heirs have laid claim for the accident money.

The fire losses at Gibson, New Brunswick, on June 20th, 1893, as reported by adjusters up to June 23rd, are as follows:—Manchester, \$19,650; Lancashire, \$6,300; Imperial, \$6,300; Commercial Union, \$5,400; North British and Mercantile, \$5,000; Phoenix of Hartford, \$3,900; British America, \$3,100; Guardian, \$2,900; Liverpool & London & Globe, \$2,850; Royal, \$2,800; Northern, \$2,200; Central, \$2,000; National of Ireland, \$1,400; Hartford, \$1,900; Albion (Fire Ins. Asso.), \$1,000; Scottish Union & National, \$1,000; Keystone, \$600; Norwich Union, \$500. The total is \$68,300, and small partial losses will probably swell the total to \$70,000.

Prof. Robertson, the Provincial Dairy Commissioner, on his return from the Maritime Provinces, speaks of the development of the dairying industry. Two years ago, when the census was taken there were only 25 cheese factories in operation in the Maritime Provinces; this season there will be no fewer than 75. In Prince Edward Island there are already 12, with an output of \$25,000 worth of cheese, New Brunswick 25, being a four-fold increase in two years; and in Nova Scotia 24. Each of these 75 factories is estimated to distribute amongst the farmers from two to four thousand dollars, and this new development is therefore a matter of much interest to the whole community.

An interesting decision was rendered in the Courts of Ohio recently, says the *Commercial Bulletin*, in which it was held that the agents of an insurance company have no authority to do anything but solicit insurance and collect the premium. If the policyholder wishes to make any alterations in the property insured, he must send his policy to headquarters and have the proper endorsement made; and in case the property is burned, particulars and sworn account must also be sent direct to the company, so the decision says, which further states that the agent's word must be taken for nothing. The case was one brought by a German farmer against an Ohio Farmer's Insurance Co.

The National Fire Brigade Union opened an exhibition and tournament on the 12th ult. at the Agricultural Hall in London, the object being to benefit the Widows and Orphans Benevolent Fund. There were representatives of Fire Brigades from the United States, Canada, Russia, Holland, Belgium, South Africa and some twenty-five towns in Great Britain. The Kansas City Fire Brigade went through some very smart exhibitions of life-saving by ladders and life lines from the top of a high building. An exhibition of the great Hale Water Tower was also given, and drill practice by the Continental teams and British Firemen constituted an interesting and instructive programme. The exhibition continued throughout the week.

Surgeon General Wyman of the United States Marine Hospital Service thinks there is an even chance of escaping the cholera altogether this year, and should it arrive, it will not be epidemic. Its non-appearance thus far proves that no germs have lived through the winter in this country, as it was feared might happen. Still, the trouble did not reach the United States last year until the month of August, and there is time for trouble yet. He thinks, however, that the Boards of Health of the various States, together with the new law enabling the general government to step in and enforce proper regulations, if the States do not, will suffice to check any inroads of the disease if it were to make its appearance.

An advance in rates in the City of Montreal, dating from 29th ult., has been decided upon by the Montreal Board of the Fire Underwriters Association. The stocks which were raised last April have not been changed; but all others have been advanced about 20 per cent. The rates on buildings,—wholesale and retail stores,—have been increased about 10 per cent.; and up to 20 per cent. for light manufacturing purposes. Special or schedule rates have not been yet dealt with. General stores which were formerly exempt from, will now be included in the co insurance clause: the advance on these risks is very slight. The Montreal tariff now covers St. Henri, Ste. Cunegonde, Cote Ste. Antoine, Maisonneuve, Cote St. Louis, and St. Louis du Mile End.

Insurance Commissioner George S. Merrill, of Massachusetts, says: "During the past five years the losses and the expenses of the United States business of the companies authorized in this State has been 96.78 per cent. of the premiums received, leaving less than 3¼ per cent. to take care of the increase of unearned premium account for contingencies and profits. As a rule, no dividends have been earned from the underwriting, and wherever paid, it has been from interest upon investments of capital, and the capital all the time liable to be wiped out by a conflagration. It is no wonder that the companies are getting tired, and half of them, one by one, have laid down their burdens and retired from the race.

We have to thank Mr. I. Freeman Rasin, the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Maryland, for his Twenty-Second Annual Report upon all classes of insurance business done in that State for the year 1892. The total amount of fire insurance premiums received in Maryland for the year were \$1,881,275, with losses paid amounting to \$1,143,907. The Commissioner recommends the creation of an office for the investigation of all fires that may occur within, or in the vicinity of, all the larger cities and towns of the State. Fire insurance companies are entitled to all the assistance the State can give in the prevention of fires, and it is quite refreshing to turn from the too frequent inclination of legislatures to impose burdens upon insurance companies, to read of recommendations which, on the contrary, will furnish to the companies some additional equivalent for the considerable sums now received by the State from these corporations in the shape of licenses and taxes on their premium receipts. Speaking of the Anti-Rebate law, the Commissioner says it is greatly to be regretted that the demand for legislation to prohibit the allowing of rebates is not obviated by the action of the companies themselves. Infractions of the law can easily be made by secret bargaining, and therefore make legislation on such subjects difficult to enforce. Hence regulations on the part of the companies, rather than State interference, can most thoroughly remove the evil.

Insurance Commissioner H. F. Duncan, of Kentucky, has sent us Part 2 of the Twenty-Third Annual Report of his department, showing the condition at December 31st, 1892, of Fidelity and Casualty, Life and Assessment companies authorized to transact business in that State. The 28 life companies had in force in Kentucky at the beginning of that year 97,000 policies, and issued during the year 73,356 policies insuring \$25,021,563, and there were in force at the end of the year an insurance of \$101,824,768. Premiums received amounted to \$3,224,343, and claims and losses paid were \$1,236,660. The total premiums received by all classes of companies, fire, life and casualty, including assessment life and casualty, were \$6,674,590, with losses and claims paid of \$3,480,600. By the new code of insurance laws, which went into effect on April 5th, 1893, policies of life insurance will on and after the 31st December, 1895, be valued on a 4 per cent. basis instead of 4½ per cent., as now.

A new Life Company is being organized by Mr. P. B. Armstrong, to be called the North American Life Insurance Company of New York, with a cash capital of a million dollars. The organizer proposes to secure 500 charter members, each agreeing to take \$50,000 insurance in the Company as soon as organized, and also to admit such other charter members under similar conditions for smaller amounts as exigencies may require. There are to be no assessments, and the company proposes to fix rates so low as to preclude the possibility of accumulating such large cash assets as are now held by many leading companies; and the North American proposes to furnish insurance and sell policies the same as fire policies are sold. No distribution, bond, or tontine policies shall be written. One of the plans is that every charter member will not only be given a contract, but a general agent's commission contract, both on original premiums and renewals as to rates, to be fixed by the trustees. We are indebted to the *Standard* for this information.

The New York Life Insurance Co. made a contract to insure the lives of 158 employees of the Commercial Cable Co., and did so without a medical examination in any case. The total amount of risk is \$571,000, all on the 20 year accumulation plan, except in a few cases which are on the 15 year plan. The amount of each policy was determined by the position which the man insured occupies on the staff of the Company, the risk in no life being in excess of \$5000. The *Standard*, in publishing a letter giving the reasons of this transaction, shows that the official records of the Cable Company for a period of years indicated a mortality experience within the actuaries' tables. The employees are largely drawn from the English Postal Service, where they passed a severe physical examination before employment. The average age of the men was about 30, nearly all married. As they are engaged in a service which enforces regular living and temperance, and only such employees as had been six months or more in their service, and were, at the time of the issuing of the policies, in good health, the risks were considered perfectly good. The payment of premiums is guaranteed by the Cable Company so long as the insured remains in their service.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Mr. J. B. LAIDLAW, has been appointed Inspector for the Lancashire Insurance Co.

The death is announced of Mr. ANDREW THOMSON, a director of the Scottish and National Insurance Co.

Mr. P. J. BAZIN, who recently opened a private bank at Ottawa, has been appointed special agent for the Manufacturers' Life & Accident Insurance Co.

Mr. J. H. BROCK has been appointed accountant of the Canadian Bank of Commerce at Montreal, in succession to Mr. Harcourt to the position of Assistant Manager. We congratulate Mr. Brock.

Mr. J. H. GOULINLOCK, late of the Manufacturers, has been appointed General Agent at Toronto and adjoining counties of the Canada Accident Assurance Company. Mr. Gouinlock has a good record.

Mr. T. L. HARCOURT has been appointed assistant manager at Montreal of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. We join his numerous friends in congratulating him and wishing him every future success.

Mr. J. H. HOLLAND, late superintendent of the Manufacturers Accident, has been appointed general superintendent for Ontario of the Canada Accident, with headquarters at Toronto. Mr. Holland intends to make business hum for the Canada in his district.

WE REGRET to announce the death of Mr. HUGH BROWN, late manager of the Atlas Accident Insurance Co. of Boston, which occurred on the 8th inst. after an illness of two weeks. Mr. Hugh Browne was a brother of Mr. Stewart Browne and also of Mr. Alex. S. Browne, present manager at Boston of the New York Life.

Following Mr. Kennedy (if not following his example), Mr. G. F. JENKIN (brother of the Quebec manager of the Manufacturers' Life) led Miss Radford to the hymeneal altar on the 28th ult. They have gone to Boston on their honeymoon, and bear with them the sincere congratulations of their numerous friends, to which we add our own.

JOHN F. ELLIS, managing director of the Manufacturers' Life & Accident Association, together with its president, George Gooderham, Esq., of Toronto, paid a short visit to Montreal and met its manager and local Board. It is reported that they are well satisfied with the progress the Company is making in this province under the new managers here.

We extend our congratulations to Mr. W. P. KENNEDY, the accountant of the Northern Assurance Company of this city upon his recent nuptials. He was married on the 21st ult. to Miss Cunningham, and was the recipient of a handsome silver coffee service and appendages, as a mark of esteem and good will from the Northern office and manager. The happy couple are spending some time at Portland on the Maine coast.

MR. J. HUTTON BALFOUR has, we are pleased to announce, been appointed general superintendent of the Canadian Branch of the Standard Life under Mr. W. M. Ramsay, manager. Mr. Balfour has for a long term of years been a faithful and efficient officer of the Standard, and we tender him our best congratulations and wishes for success under his new title. Mr. Ramsay has always followed the conservative course of promotion amongst his own staff where deserved. He has in Mr. Balfour the right man in the right place.

On leaving the Caledonian Insurance Company, to take up his duties in connection with the Guardian Fire and Life Insurance Co., Mr. CHARLES FELL BROWN was presented, by the staff and officials of the Caledonian, with a handsome travelling and dressing bag, in token of their regard and esteem for him. Mr. Brown has been appointed to superintend the foreign business of the Guardian, and is well known on this side of the Atlantic, he having fulfilled different duties for the Caledonian, in Manchester, London, Canada and the United States. The *Chronicle* extends its congratulations to Mr. Brown, no less than to the Guardian for having obtained the services of so competent a superintendent.

Legal Intelligence.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE.

LIVERPOOL ASSIZES, March, 1893. *Bennett vs. Scottish Metropolitan Life.* Using due diligence for personal safety.

Plaintiff was appointed agent for the defendant company in October last, at the same time taking out a policy for £1,000.

He lived at Oxford Road, Aintree, and his garden abutted on the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway Company's line. At the bottom of the road there was a sleeper fence, over which railway servants and others climbed in order to reach a footpath along the line. On the evening of November 29th, plaintiff left his house to go and see an overseer who lived on the other side of the line. He climbed over the fence as usual, and had crossed the up and down line when he stumbled against something, and fainted. When he came to himself, he found that a train must have passed over him, as one hand had been cut off, while the other was so mangled that it had to be amputated. The plaintiff denied that he was in difficulties at the time, or that there was the slightest ground for suggesting that he had wilfully gone on the line to injure himself. He held a policy of £1,000 in another company.

Counsel submitted that upon the plaintiff's evidence there was no liability on the part of the defendants. Among the provisions of the policy was one that "this policy is granted upon the expressed condition that the assured shall use all due diligence for his personal safety and protection," and another that "the policy shall not extend to assured wilfully, wantonly, and negligently exposing himself to any unnecessary danger." The plaintiff by his own showing could have gone across the bridge provided by the company, but instead chose a dangerous way. His Lordship held there was a case to go to jury. Several witnesses were called for the defence, and the jury found for the plaintiff. His Lordship said he entirely agreed with the finding and somewhat regretted the line of cross-examination which counsel had been instructed to adopt.

FIRE INSURANCE.

IOWA SUPREME COURT, Feb., 1893. *Frank vs. Burlington Ins. Co.* Knowledge of agent that of the company.

The policy of the defendant provided that if the property insured should be encumbered by mortgage without the consent of the president or secretary of the company it should be void. It further provided that no agent had power to waive any of the provisions of the policy. The plaintiff bought the property insured, and took an assignment of the policy. He gave to the assignor a mortgage to secure part of the purchase-money. The agent was fully informed of all the facts, and asked to obtain the consent of the company to the assignment. The agent sent the policy to the company with request to assent to the assignment, but did not mention the fact of the mortgage. Held, that the company was estopped to defend on account of the mortgage, as it was bound by the knowledge of the agent.

It was also held, that where the evidence that the defendant's agent had been fully informed of the mortgage on the premises at the time of the transfer of the policy was direct and positive, the jury were justified in finding such evidence as true, even though the agent denied having any knowledge of the mortgage.

FARM PROPERTY FIRES.

Farm property is keeping up its reputation of being an absorbent, not merely of its own premiums but of a generous portion of premiums from more fortunate classes of risks as well. Underwriters who are wrestling with the farm problem wonder how much longer farmers will continue to reap where they have not sown. The heavy loss ratio on this class during the first three

months of the year, when natural conditions usually favor an absence of fires, betokens an extraordinary season as soon as lightning begins its operations and the tramps start upon their annual barn-burning trip.

The undesirability of farm risks has become so firmly established among underwriters, that it is the exception rather than the rule that companies can be found willing to place can well inquire as to the conditions that make it so unprofitable and consequently so generally tabooed. The location of farm property, removed from fire protection, and even from neighboring habitations, has much to do with making fires more disastrous and the loss claims frequently total. The tendency toward cheapness in construction of farm houses also explains the large number of defective-flue fires. The lack of care of property and delay in repairing, account for the presence of dry and moss-covered shingles, and the resultant numerous fires from sparks on the roof. Lightning and tramps furnish more than their share of fires; while the steam thrasher, kerosene oil lamps and lanterns provide their full quota of the many and varied causes assigned.

There is, of course, a rate that will cover all of these natural and unnatural hazards; but if the experience of the companies which have given this business a fair trial proves anything, it is plainly—and to them painfully—evident that the present rates are not capable of doing it. In many sections, farm rates are as low as protected village dwellings, which is manifestly unreasonable, and in other localities some distinction has been made; but very rarely can there be found a section where farm risks pay as much as 25 cents additional for three years. Farm property, in some sections, is rapidly depreciating in value, and this adds another and very serious factor, a species of moral hazard, which some underwriters claim cannot be rated, but which costs every company more or less money, if it has farm property on its acceptable list.

It is becoming an important question whether farmers will not be obliged to insure themselves, instead of being persuaded from so doing. With the present loss conditions, underwriters think they can well be encouraged in forming local mutual companies, that they might learn the lesson of rates. Farmers will, however, continue to buy as cheaply as possible, and many have had too much experience with farm mutual insurance companies to be caught again; therefore, farm insurance will no doubt hereafter be offered to stock companies, and it then becomes a problem for the agents. The latter must exercise unusual care in inspection and selection and show favorable results, if they expect that companies will continue to write farm property. Some companies assume that agents will not use discretion, and have already put farm property upon their prohibited lists.—*Commercial Bulletin.*

MERCHANTS BANK OF CANADA.

PROCEEDINGS AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Merchants Bank of Canada was held in the Board room of that institution on Wednesday, June 21, at noon, when there were present Messrs. Andrew Allan, president; Robert Anderson, vice-president; Hector Mackenzie, Jonathan Hodgson, James P. Dawes, M. Burke, John Crawford, William Francis, J. Y. Gilmour, John McConnel, Murdock Mackenzie, T. H. Dunn (Quebec) John Cassils, John Morrison, Col. Kippen (Lennoxville), J. H. R. Molson, J. P. Cleghorn, John Curran, George Cruickshank, J. A. L. Strathy, G. M. Kinghorn, H. J. Hague and James Moore.

The proceedings were opened by the President taking the chair and requesting Mr. John Gault to act as secretary. After the secretary had read the advertisement convening the meeting, the president submitted the following report of the directors:—

THE REPORT.

The directors of the Merchants Bank of Canada, in presenting to the Stockholders another annual statement, beg to say that the business of the Bank during the year just closed has been well maintained.

The amounts of Deposits and Circulation, as will be seen by the statement just issued have followed closely in the line of last year's business, but the Loans and Discounts exhibit a considerable increase, owing to the active demand for money that has prevailed during the last few months, and still continues.

The directors, as reported to the Stockholders a year ago, and acting on the resolution of a former meeting, issued during the year an additional \$200,000 of stock at a premium of 45 per cent. This stock has all been paid up, and the capital of the Bank now stands at six millions of dollars. The amount of premium, namely, \$90,000, was added to the Rest; and, with the sum of \$175,000 added in addition out of the profits of the year, this important fund has now been brought up to the sum of \$2,900,000. This sum, though bearing a ratio to the capital of over 48 per cent., is only 16 per cent. of the mercantile discounts of the Bank, the risk on which is intended to be covered by this fund.

The net profits of the year, after payment of interest and charges, and deducting appropriations for bad and doubtful debts, have amounted to...	\$694,395 58
Premium 45 per cent. on new stock issued.....	90,000 00
Balance from last year.....	3,733 28
	<hr/>
	\$698,128 66

This has been disposed of as follows:—	
Dividends Nos. 48 and 49, making 7 per cent.	\$419,166 87
Added to the Rest Premium 45 per cent. on new stock issued as above. \$ 90,000 00	
From this year's profit's.....	175,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$664,166 87
Carried forward to profit and Loss Account of next year.....	13,961 79
	<hr/>
	\$698,128 66

The condition of financial matters in the United States and Australia has called for careful attention during the year, while the prevalence of a speculative spirit, the tendency of undue expansion of credit in various directions, both public and mercantile, and the condition of the market for some of our leading staples, must in the opinion of your Board, be an occasion of great watchfulness on the part of bankers for some time to come. The outlook, however, for other branches of trade is satisfactory, and it is to be hoped that the adverse circumstances referred to may by wise legislation and conservative action on the part of all concerned pass away without damage.

In view of the many interests of the bank in the neighborhood of Preston, Ontario, the Board have thought it desirable to open a Branch there.

The officers of the bank have discharged their duties with zeal and fidelity, and to the satisfaction of the Board.

The whole respectfully submitted,

(Signed), ANDREW ALLAN,
President.

MONTREAL, June 16th, 1893.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31ST MARCH, 1893.

<i>Liabilities.</i>		Last Year.
<i>1.—To the Public:</i>		
Notes in circulation.....	\$ 2,665,932 00	\$ 2,731,797 00
Deposits not bearing interest.....	\$2,748,536 91	2,522,246 80
Deposits bearing interest.....	7,359,732 20	7,319,756 15
Interest due thereon to date.....	76,127 27	\$2,216 15
	<hr/>	
	\$10,184,396 38	
Balances due to Canadian Banks keeping Deposit Accounts with this Bank.....	757,172 97	720,957 19
Balances due to Canadian Banks in Daily Exchange.....	2,030 19	27,695 68
Balances due to Agents in Great Britain.....	709,300 13	334,798 87
Dividend No. 49.....	210,000 00	202,972 00
Dividends unclaimed.....	1,526 00	1,648 50
	<hr/>	
	\$14,530,657 67	\$13,943,188 34

<i>2.—To the Stockholders:</i>		
Capital paid up.....	6,000,000 00	5,799,200 00
Rest.....	2,910,000 00	2,635,000 00
Contingent account.....	86,320 00	75,800 00
Balance of Profit and Loss Account carried to next year..	13,661 79	3,733 28
	<hr/>	
	\$23,530,939 46	\$22,456,921 62
<i>Assets</i>		
Gold and Silver Coin on hand... \$	290,572 60	\$ 305,558 00
Dominion Notes on hand.....	781,397 00	553,181 00
Notes and Cheques of other Canadian Banks.....	592,935 33	601,261 31
Balance due by other Canadian Banks in Account and daily exchanges.....	96,495 78	76,246 58
Balances due by Banks and Agents in the United States...	625,916 64	631,704 19
Dominion Government Bonds...	1,078,132 45	769,981 00
Railway and Municipal Debentures.....	263,076 50	127,300 00
Call and Short Loans on Bonds and Stocks.....	\$27,495 85	1,698,636 61
	<hr/>	
Total available assets.....	\$ 4,556,022 55	\$ 4,764,169 17
Time loans on Bonds and Stocks \$144,425 00		121,181 25
Other loans and discounts.....	17,732,071 41	17,518,175 43
Loans and discounts overdue (loss provided).....	107,210 17	127,238 71
	<hr/>	
	\$17,983,706 58	
Deposits with Dominion Government for security of Note circulation.....	453,699 00	70,000 00
Mortgages, Bonds and other Securities, the Property of the Bank.....	113,528 48	122,746 11
Real Estate.....	188,837 68	203,977 74
Bank Premises and Furniture...	519,553 24	508,173 25
Other Assets.....	15,591 93	21,259 95
	<hr/>	
	\$23,530,939 46	\$23,406,921 62

(Signed), G. HAGUE, General Manager.

The president then moved, seconded by the vice-president:—
“That the report of the directors, as submitted, be and the same is hereby adopted, and ordered to be printed for distribution amongst the stockholders.”

Before putting the motion to the meeting, however, the president called upon the General Manager, Mr. George Hague, for a few remarks upon the financial outlook.

After Mr. Hague's remarks and those of some of the shareholders, Mr. John Crawford moved, and Mr. J. H. R. Molson seconded:—

“That the thanks of the stockholders are due and are hereby tendered to the president, vice-president and directors for the manner in which they have conducted the institution during the past year, and to the general manager for his efficient management during the year.”

The motion was carried unanimously, Col. Kippen moved and Mr. Francis seconded:—

“That Messrs. J. Y. Gilmour and J. P. Cleghorn be appointed scrutineers of the election of directors about to take place; that they proceed to take the votes immediately; that the ballot shall close at three o'clock p.m., but if an interval of ten minutes elapse without a vote being tendered, that the ballot shall thereupon be closed immediately.”

The motion was unanimously concurred in. It was moved by Mr. Hector Mackenzie, seconded by Mr. T. H. Dunn:

“That the thanks of the meeting are due and are hereby tendered to the chairman for his efficient conduct of the business of the meeting.”

The motion was carried unanimously, and shortly afterwards the scrutineers reported that the following gentlemen had been duly elected as directors:

ANDREW ALLAN,
ROBERT ANDERSON,
HECTOR MACKENZIE,
JONATHAN HODGSON,
JOHN CASSIDY,
H. MONTAGU ALLAN,
JAMES P. D. DAWES,
T. H. DUNN,
SIR JOSEPH HICKSON,

The meeting then adjourned. The new Board of Directors met in the afternoon, when Mr. Andrew Allan was re-elected president, and Mr. Robert Anderson, vice-president.

MUNICIPAL DEBENTURES.

GOVERNMENT AND RAILWAY BONDS.

INVESTMENT SECURITIES.

BOUGHT AND SOLD

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

R. WILSON SMITH,

British Empire Building, MONTREAL.

Debentures and other desirable Securities purchased.

City of Winnipeg Debentures.

Sealed tenders marked "Tenders for debentures" will be received, addressed to the undersigned, at the office of the Clerk of Committees up to 12 o'clock, noon, on

FRIDAY, 21st JULY, 1893,

for the purchase of \$31,000 of seven year City of Winnipeg Local Improvement debentures bearing interest at five per cent. per annum payable half-yearly at the Bank of Montreal, Winnipeg. Debentures guaranteed by the city and delivered here.

Further particulars can be obtained from Mr. D. S. CURRY, City Comptroller.

THOMAS CILROY, Chairman,

WINNIPEG, 10th June. 1893. **Finance Committee.**

Consolidated - Debentures.

COUNTY OF PONTIAC.

The undersigned is prepared to receive tenders for an issue of **\$214,650.00, 4 1/2 P.C. Debentures,**

payable in forty years, authorized by Special Act, Chap. 47, 56 Vic., Quebec.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

TENDERS to be addressed up to 15th July.

SIMON McNALLY, Warden,

Calumet Island, P.Q.

June 27th, 1893.

WANTED. - By a first class Canadian Life Insurance Company, sub-agents or canvassers for the city of Montreal. A liberal commission will be paid to suitable parties. Apply, stating experience, if any, to P. O. Box 916, Montreal.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO.

Paid-up Capital, - \$6,000,000 Rest, - - - \$1,000,000

DIRECTORS.

GEO. A. COX, Esq., President. JOHN J. DAVIDSON, Esq., Vice-Pres.
W. B. Hamilton, Esq. George Taylor, Esq.
Jas. Crathern, Esq. Matthew Leggat, Esq.
John Hoskin, Q.C., LL.D. Robt. Kilgour, LL.D.
B. E. WALKER, General Manager. J. H. PLUMMER, Ass't Gen. Manager
A. H. IRELAND, Inspector. G. DE C. O'GRADY, Ass't. Inspector
New York—Alex. Laid and Wm. Gray, Agents.

TORONTO—Head Office: 19-25 King Street West. City Branches: 738 Queen Street East, 420 Yonge Street, 791 Yonge Street, 286 College Street, 51 Queen Street West, 415 Parliament Street, 123 King St. East, Toronto Junction.

BRANCHES.

Alisa Craig	Cayuga	Goderich	St. Catharines	Thorold
AYF	Chatham	Guelph	Sarnia	Walkerton
Barrie	Collingwood	Hamilton	Seaford	Walkerville
Belleville	Dundas	Jarvis	Simcoe	Waterloo
Berlin	Dunnville	London	Stratford	Windsor
Blenheim	Galt	Montreal	Strathroy	Woolstock
Brantford				

Montreal Branch—Main Office, 157 St. James St., A. M. Cronbie, Manager. City Branches: 2034 Notre Dame, and 276 St. Lawrence Streets.

BANKERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

GREAT BRITAIN—The Bank of Scotland.
INDIA, CHINA AND JAPAN—The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
PARIS, FRANCE—Lazard Frères & Cie.
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND—Union Bank of Australia.
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM—J. Mathieu & Fils.
NEW YORK—The American Exchange National Bank of New York.
SAN FRANCISCO—The Bank of British Columbia.
CHICAGO—The American Exchange National Bank of Chicago.
BRITISH COLUMBIA—The Bank of British Columbia.
HAMILTON, BERMUDDA—The Bank of Bermuda.
KINGSTON, JAMAICA—Bank of Nova Scotia.

Commercial Credits issued for use in all parts of the world. Exceptional facilities for this class of business in Europe, the East and West Indies, China, Japan, South America, Australia, and New Zealand.

UNION BANK OF CANADA.

Established 1867. Paid-up Capital, 1,200,000. HEAD OFFICE Quebec.

DIRECTORS.

Andrew Thomson, President. E. J. Price, Vice-President.
Hon. Thos. McGreevy. E. Giroux, D. C. Thomson, E. J. Hale.
Sir A. T. Galt, G.C.M.G. E. E. Webb, Cashier.

FOREIGN AGENTS.

London—The Alliance Bank Limited. Liverpool—Bank of Liverpool Limited.
New York—National Park Bank. Boston—Lincoln National Bank.
Minneapolis—First National Bank.

BRANCHES.

Alexandria.	Iroquois.	Merricksville.	Montreal.
Ottawa.	Quebec.	Smiths Falls.	Toronto.
Winnipeg.	W. Winchester.	Lethbridge, Alberta.	

CALEDONIAN INSURANCE CO. OF EDINBURGH

ESTABLISHED 1805.

THE OLDEST SCOTTISH FIRE OFFICE

CANADIAN BRANCH.

45 ST. FRANCOIS XAVIER ST., MONTREAL.

LANSING LEWIS,

Manager.

THE

LANGASHIRE

INSURANCE COMPANY OF ENGLAND.

CANADA FIRE BRANCH, HEAD OFFICE TORONTO.

J. G. THOMPSON, MANAGER.

THE BELL TELEPHONE CO. OF CANADA.

Head Office: 30 St. John Street, Montreal.

This Company will sell its instruments at prices ranging from \$7 to \$25 per set. Its "Standard Bell Telephone Set" (protected by registered Trade Mark), designed especially for maintaining a perfect service and used by the Company in connection with its Exchanges, is superior in design and workmanship to any telephone set yet offered for sale.

Subscribers to this Company's Montreal Exchange and the public may now obtain telephonic communication over its Long Distance Metallic Circuit Lines to Quebec, Ottawa or Sherbrooke, and intermediate points, the rates being as follows:—

To Quebec.....	60c. to Subscribers.	\$1.00 to the Public.
To Ottawa.....	50c. " "	.75 " "
To Sherbrooke.....	50c. " "	.75 " "

Silent Cabinets for conversations are provided at the Company's Montreal Agency Office, 1730 Notre Dame Street, where full information regarding rates and places connected may be obtained.

The JAMES ROBERTSON CO., Limited,
METAL MERCHANTS
AND MANUFACTURERS OF

Lead Piping, Shot, Compressed Lead Elbows, Putty and White Lead. Specialty in covering Electric Wire with White Lead. Also Circular Saws, Gang Saws, Crosscut and other Saws.

Office, 144 WILLIAM STREET.
Works, Cor. WILLIAM and DALHOUSIE STREETS,
MONTREAL.

FIRE INS. **HARTFORD** COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1810.

HARTFORD, CONN.

CASH ASSETS, \$7,109,825.49.

Fire Insurance Exclusively.

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

THE GREAT-WEST LIFE

ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Subscribed Capital, \$100,000. Paid up Capital, \$100,000.

ALEXANDER MACDONALD, Pres. J. N. BROCK, Man. Director.

The only Canadian Company putting up a Four per cent Reserve

—BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR ONTARIO—

- J. HERBERT MASON, Esq., President and Managing Director Canada Permanent Loan and Savings Co., Toronto.
- J. J. KENNY, Esq., Managing Director Western Assurance Co., Toronto.
- W. R. BROCK, Esq., W. B. Brock & Co., Wholesale Dry Goods, Toronto.
- ROBERT THOMPSON, Esq., Wholesale Lumber Merchant, Director Traders Bank, Hamilton.
- J. W. LITTLE, Esq., of Robinson, Little & Co., Wholesale Dry Goods, London, President Huron & Erie Loan Co.

Agents wanted in unrepresented districts. See the following plans before insuring.

Great-West Annuity Bond. Renewable Term. Savings Bank Policy Collateral Security Policy.

Apply to ALEXANDER CROMAR,
Manager for Ontario, - - - TORONTO

The Temperance and General LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

HEAD OFFICE, Manning Arcade, TORONTO.

HON. GEO. W. ROSS, Minister of Education, PRESIDENT.
HON. S. H. BLAKE, Q. C. } VICE-PRESIDENTS
ROBT. McLEAN, Esq., }

Policies issued on all the best approved plans, both Level and Natural Premium. Total abstainers kept in a separate class, thereby getting the advantage of their superior longevity.

H. SUTHERLAND, Manager
AGENTS WANTED.

ECONOMY, EQUITY, STABILITY, PROGRESS!

THE ONTARIO MUTUAL LIFE

ESTABLISHED 1870.

Dominion Deposit, - - \$100,000

Assurance in force, Jan. 1st, 1893.....	\$16,122,195
Increase over previous year.....	1,187,388
New Assurances taken in 1892.....	2,651,000
Increase over 1891.....	222,050
Cash Income for 1892.....	614,951
Increase over 1891.....	67,331
Assets, Dec. 31st, 1892.....	2,253,984
Increase over 1891.....	294,953
Reserve for security of Policy-Holders, Dec. 31, '92.....	2,061,602
Increase over 1891.....	280,827
Surplus over all Liabilities, Dec. 31st, 1892..	176,301
Increase over 1891.....	20,742

SPECIAL FEATURES.

- 1—Cash and Paid up Values guaranteed on each policy.
- 2—All dividends belong to and are paid to policy-holders only.
- 3—No restriction on travel, residence or occupation.
- 4—Death claims paid at once on completion of claim papers.

ATTENTION IS INVITED TO THE COMPANY'S 20-Year Surrenderhip Distribution Policy now offered, which embraces all the newest features and is the best form of Protection and Investment money can buy. It has no equal. Guaranteed values, attractive options and liberal conditions.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

I. E. BOWMAN, M.P. (President).....	Waterloo
C. M. TAYLOR (1st Vice-President).....	Waterloo
ROBERT MELVIN (and Vice-President).....	Guelph
ALFRED HOSKIN, Q.C.....	Toronto
ROBERT HAIRD.....	Kincardine
B. M. BRITTON, Q.C.....	Kingston
FRANCIS C. BRUCE.....	Hamilton
JOHN MARSHALL.....	London
J. KERR FISKIN.....	Toronto
E. P. CL. MENT.....	Berlin
HON. W. LAURIER.....	Arkhaskaville, P.Q.
S. HENDERSON, B.A., LL.B., B.C.L.....	Ottawa

OFFICERS.

ALEX. MILLAR, Q.C., Solicitor.....	BERLIN.
J. H. WEBB, M.D., Medical Referee.....	WATERLOO.
W. S. HODGINS, Superintendent of Agencies.....	WATERLOO.

W. H. RIDDELL, Secretary. WM. HENDRY, Manager.

THE MERCANTILE

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

INCORPORATED 1875

Head Office, - - - WATERLOO, ONT.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.....	\$200,000.00
DEPOSITED WITH DOMINION GOVERNMENT.....	50,079.76

The Business for the past seventeen years has been:

PREMIUMS received.....	\$1,202,356.65
LOSSES paid.....	663,459.69

LOSSES PROMPTLY ADJUSTED AND PAID.

I. E. BOWMAN, President. JAMES LOCKIE, Secretary
JOHN SHUH, Vice-President. T. A. CALE, Inspector.

THE WATERLOO

MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,

ESTABLISHED IN 1863.

Head Office, - - - WATERLOO, ONT.

TOTAL ASSETS.....	\$322,892.20
POLICIES IN FORCE.....	16,704

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

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

THE
GERMANIA LIFE

Insurance Company of New York.
Established 1860. Assets \$17,000,000.00

AN ACTUAL RESULT:

Policy of \$5,000.....	to Pay't Life Plan	
	13 years Dividend Tontine.	
Age 27.....	Annual premium	\$ 228.00
Total premiums paid.....		2,280.00
Cash Settlement at end of Tontine Period :-		
Guaranteed Reserve.....	\$1,905.00	
Surplus actually earned.....	1,404.90	3,309.90

This represents a return of all premiums paid, with a profit of..... \$1,049.90
Free choice also given of such options as are offered by other first class companies.

JEFFERS & RÖNNE, Managers.

46 King Street West, Toronto.

GOOD AGENTS WANTED—Liberal Terms.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE,

FOUNDED A.D. 1710.

HEAD OFFICE:

Threadneedle Street, - - London, Eng.

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

CANADIAN BRANCH:

15 Wellington Street East, - Toronto, Ont.

H. M. BLACKBURN, Manager.

W. ROWLAND, Inspector.

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

DEBENTURES.

Government, Municipal and Railway.
HANSON BROS.
TEMPLE BUILDING, MONTREAL.

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

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

THE TRAVELERS INS. CO.
OF HARTFORD, CONN.



Life, Accident

and

Liability Insurance.

Examine our contract before insuring

TOTAL ASSETS, \$15,029,921.09 SURPLUS, \$2,579,794.24
LOSSES PAID SINCE 1864, \$22,718,416.00

FRANK F. PARKINS, Chief Agent,
Temple Buildings, MONTREAL.

PROVIDENT SAVINGS LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY
OF NEW YORK.

SHEPPARD HOMANS, President.

Eighteenth Annual Statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1892.

Income.....	\$ 1,902,222.30
Paid Policy-holders.....	1,181,498.36
Total Expenses of Management.....	464,141.34
Assets.....	1,287,010.23
Liabilities, Actuaries' 4% Valuation.....	605,215.00
Surplus, Actuaries' 4%.....	681,795.23
Surplus, American Experience, 4 1/2%.....	716,395.23
Policies issued in 1892.....	19,517,516.00
Policies in force December 31st, 1892.....	76,843,241.00

\$50,000 deposited with the Dominion Gov't.

ACTIVE AGENTS WANTED.

R. H. MATSON, General Manager for Canada.

Head Office, - - - 37 Yonge St., Toronto

1850 THE 1893

United States Life Insurance Co.,

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

OFFICERS:

GEORGE H. HURFORD,	President.
C. P. FRAI'IGH,	Secretary.
A. WHEELWRIGHT,	Assistant Secretary.
WM. T. STANDEN,	Actuary.
ARTHUR C. PERRY,	Cashier.
JOHN P. MUNN,	Medical Director.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

GEO. G. WILLIAMS,	Pres. Chem. Nat. Bank.
J ULIUS CATLIN,	Dry Goods.
JOHN J. TUCKER,	Builder.
E. H. PERKINS, JR.,	Pres. Importers' and Traders' Nat. Bank.

The two most popular plans of LIFE INSURANCE are the CONTINUABLE TERM POLICY which gives to the insured the greatest possible amount of indemnity in the event of death, at the lowest possible present cash outlay; and the GUARANTEED INCOME POLICY which embraces every valuable feature of investment insurance, and which in the event of adversity overtaking the insured may be used as COLLATERAL SECURITY FOR A LOAN, to the extent of the full legal reserve value thereof, in accordance with the terms and conditions of these policies.

Good Agents, desiring to represent the Company, are invited to address J. S. GAFFNEY, Superintendent of Agencies, at Home Office.

E. A. COWLEY, Manager Province of Quebec, Montreal.

FIRE. LIFE. MARINE.
COMMERCIAL UNION

Assurance Company Ltd. of London, Eng.

Capital and Assets, - - - - - \$27,947,330
 Life Fund, (in special trust for Life Policy Holders) 7,343,285
 Total Annual Income, - - - - - 7,000,000
 Deposited with Dominion Government, - 374,248

HEAD OFFICE CANADIAN BRANCH:

1731 Notre Dame Street, - MONTREAL.

EVANS & MCGREGOR, Managers.

Applications for Agencies solicited in unrepresented districts.

Scottish Union National

Insurance Company of Edinburgh, Scotland.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

Capital, - - - - - \$30,000,000
 Total Assets, - - - - - 40,506,907
 Deposited with Dominion Government, - 125,000
 Invested Assets in Canada, - - - - - 1,415,466

M. BENNETT, Manager North American Department.

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

WALTER KAVANAGH, - Resident Agent
 17 St. Francois Xavier Street, MONTREAL.

PHENIX
 FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,
 OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

ESTABLISHED 1782.

Agency Established in Canada in 1804.

PATERSON & SON,

GENERAL AGENTS FOR DOMINION.

HEAD AGENCY OFFICE,

35 St. Francois Xavier Street, MONTREAL.

THE GUARANTEE CO.
 OF NORTH AMERICA

ISSUES BONDS OF SURETYSHIP.

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

HEAD OFFICE—MONTREAL.

SIR A. T. GALT, G.C.M.G., **EDWARD RAWLINGS,**
 President. Vice-Pres. and Man.-Directo

Albion Fire Insurance Association

(LIMITED)

OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

HEAD OFFICE FOR CANADA: - - - MONTREAL.

CANADIAN BOARD:

SIR DONALD A. SMITH, K.C.M.G., CHAIRMAN.
SANDFORD FLEMING, Esq., C.M.G., } DIRECTORS.
ROBERT BENNY, Esq. }

A. DEAN, Inspector.

JOHN KENNEDY, Manager for Canada.

AGENTS WANTED IN UNREPRESENTED DISTRICTS.

UNITED FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
 OF MANCHESTER, ENGLAND.

A PROGRESSIVE COMPANY WITH AN EXCELLENT RECORD.

This Company has recently taken over the funds and business of the City of London Fire Insurance Company, and is operated jointly with

THE PALATINE INSURANCE CO., of Manchester.

Canadian Branch Office:

1740 Notre Dame Street, - - - Montreal.

T. H. HUDSON, MANAGER.

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

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

MANITOBA, B.C. & N.W.T. BRANCH,
 Head Office, Winnipeg,
G. W. GIRDLESTONE, General Agent.

Bell Telephone 1907. Cable Address: "INDE"
C. R. G. JOHNSON,
 AGENT, FIRE INSURANCE, BROKER.
 Montreal Agent,
 BRITISH AMERICAN ASSURANCE CO.,
 AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE CO., OF WATERTOWN, N.Y.
 Special City Agent,
 UNION ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.
 Offices: 42 ST. JOHN STREET, MONTREAL.

JAMES P. BAMFORD,
 General Insurance Agent and Broker,
 REPRESENTING
LANCASHIRE FIRE AND LIFE INS. CO.
SUN FIRE OFFICE.
 Special facilities for placing surplus and excess lines of Fire Insurance
 for outside Agents.
 Offices: 51 St. Francois Xavier St., MONTREAL.
 JAMES P. BAMFORD, Agent.

F. H. REYNOLDS,
 SOLICITOR OF PATENTS
And Expert in Patent Cases.
 Electrical Cases a specialty.
 Temple Buildings, ST. JAMES ST., - MONTREAL.
 AGENCIES in Washington, London and all Chief Cities.
 Telephone 192.

FIRE. **A. BROWNING,** LIFE
 Insurance,
 British Empire Building, } Telephone, 1743. - - MONTREAL
 REPRESENTING:—Northern Fire Insurance Co. & British Empire Mutual Life Assurance
 Surplus Lines placed with First Class Foreign Companies.
 REFERENCES:
 Sir Donald A. Smith, K.C.M.G., M.P. E. B. Greenshields, Esq.
 R. B. Angus, Esq. F. Wolferstan Thomas, Esq.
 ACCIDENT MARINE.

CHARLES D. HANSON,
 Insurance Adjuster and Inspector,
 IMPERIAL BUILDING, MONTREAL.
 TELEPHONE 1131.

WALTER KAVANAGH,
 CHIEF AGENT
 SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE CO. of Edinburgh
 GENERAL AGENT
 NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY, } For the Province
 EASTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY, } of Quebec.
 117 St. Francois Xavier Street, MONTREAL.

DASTOUS & LEGER,
 Managers French Department of
THE SUN LIFE ASSURANCE CO.,
 Room 7 Sun Life Building,
 MONTREAL.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN MARINE INSURANCE CO.
 Capital and Surplus Assets, \$7,669,000.
 Issues Open Policies to Importers and Exporters.
EDWARD L. LOND, General Agent for Canada,
 MONTREAL.

NORTHERN



ASSURANCE COMPANY,
OF LONDON.

INCOME AND FUNDS, 1891.
 Capital and Accumulated Funds\$36,647,000
 Annual Revenue from Fire and Life Business, and Interest
 on Invested Funds..... 5,243,810
 Deposited with Dominion Government for the security of
 Canadian Policy-holders..... 200,000

CANADIAN BRANCH OFFICE,
 1724 Notre Dame Street - - MONTREAL

ROBERT W. TYRE, Manager.
 G. E. MOBERLY, Inspector.

PHENIX
INSURANCE COMPANY
 (Of Hartford, Conn.)
 ESTABLISHED IN 1834.



Cash Capital, \$2,000,000.00
 RESERVE FUND FOR
 Unadjusted Losses, \$ 467,226.21
 Re-Insurance Fund, 2,112,631.71
 Net Surplus, \$2,580,057.92
 1,240,234.14

D. W. C. SKILTON, President.
 J. H. MITCHELL, Vice-Pres.
 CHAS. E. GALACAR, 2nd Vice-Pres.
 GEO. H. BURDICK, Secretary.

CANADA BRANCH.
 FULL DEPOSIT WITH THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT.

Head Office, - - Montreal,
 114 ST. JAMES STREET.

GERALD E. HART,
 General Manager and Chief Agent.
 Applications for Agencies Solicited.

The British America

INCORPORATED 1833.

ASSURANCE COMPANY.

HEAD OFFICE, - - - TORONTO.

OLD RELIABLE PROGRESSIVE
FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE.

Cash Capital, - - - \$500,000.00
Total Assets, - - - 1,015,570.70

Losses paid since organization, \$12,475,201.09

DIRECTORS:

GEO. A. COX, **J. J. KENNY,**
President. *Vice-President.*

A. M. SMITH	JOHN HOSKIN, Q.C., LL.D.
S. F. MCKINNON	ROBERT JAFFRAY
THOMAS LONG	AUGUSTUS MYERS

H. M. PELLATT.

P. H. SIMS, *Secretary.*

C. R. G. JOHNSON, Resident Agent,
42 St. John Street, - - - MONTREAL

THE

CANADA ACCIDENT

ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Incorporated in 1887.

THE CANADA ACCIDENT has acquired the business of the

MUTUAL ACCIDENT ASSO'N. (of Manchester),
THE CITIZENS OF CANADA, and
THE SUN OF CANADA.

THE CANADA ACCIDENT is now controlled and guaranteed by the **PALATINE INSURANCE COMPANY (Limited)** of Manchester, but will continue under its original name, but with new Officers and Manager, and is fully prepared to offer Accident Insurance in all its branches, together with Employers' Liability Indemnity on the most liberal terms.

HEAD OFFICE:

1740 Notre Dame Street, - MONTREAL.

LYNN T. LEET, Manager.

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

New-York Life Insurance Company

JOHN A. McCALL, President.

SUMMARY OF REPORT.

BUSINESS OF 1892.

Premium Income,	- - - - -	\$25,040,113.93
Interest, Rents, etc.,	- - - - -	5,896,476.90

Total Income, - - - - - **\$30,936,590.83**

Death Claims,	- - - - -	\$7,896,589.29
Endowments and Annuities,	- - - - -	2,484,432.29
Dividends, Purchased Insurances, etc.,	- - - - -	3,613,990.75

Total to Policyholders, - - - - - **\$13,995,012.33**

Number of New Policies Issued,	- - - - -	66,259
Amount of New Insurance Written,	- - - - -	\$173,605,070.00

CONDITION, JANUARY 1, 1893.

Assets, - - - - - **\$137,499,198.99**

Liabilities, 4 per cent. Standard,	- - - - -	\$120,694,250.89
Surplus,	- - - - -	16,804,948.10
Number of Policies in Force,	- - - - -	224,008
Amount of Insurance in Force,	- - - - -	\$689,248,629.00

PROGRESS IN 1892.

Increase in Benefits to Policyholders,	- - - - -	\$1,323,521.45
Increase in Assets,	- - - - -	11,551,908.18
Increase in Surplus,	- - - - -	1,063,924.79
Increase in Insurance Written,	- - - - -	20,940,088.00
Increase in Insurance in Force,	- - - - -	60,165,451.00

DAVID BURKE, GENERAL MANAGER.

Company's Building, - - - - - MONTREAL, Canada.