

678. The increase in the total amount of insurance in force in 1886 over 1885, and in 1887 over 1886 was very large, amounting to the sums of \$21,353,550 and \$20,364,156, respectively, as shown by the following figures:—

Increase during the last three years.

LIFE INSURANCE IN FORCE IN CANADA—1885, 1886 AND 1887.

COMPANIES.	Insurance in Force.		
	1885.	1886.	1887.
	\$	\$	\$
Canadian .....	74,591,139	88,181,859	101,772,080
British .....	25,930,272	27,225,607	28,173,585
American .....	49,440,735	55,908,230	61,734,187
Total .....	149,962,146	171,315,696	191,679,852

679. The Canadian companies' share of the increase in 1885 over 1884 was 55·63 per cent.; of that in 1886 over 1885, 63·64 per cent.; and of that in 1887 over 1886, 66·73 per cent.

Canadian companies share of increase.

680. The amounts at risk for both fire and life insurance are often used for the purpose of estimating the wealth and progress of a nation, and the amount at risk for life insurance may be more particularly used to indicate the progress made not only in wealth, but in what may be called surplus wealth. Fire insurance is to a large extent looked upon as a business expense, which must be incurred as necessarily as rent, salaries, &c., and which is therefore paid out of the gross receipts. But with life insurance, people far more generally insure in proportion to their ability to pay the premiums: not until after everything else is paid, and there is a surplus, is the question of life insurance considered. Life insurance therefore being generally paid out of surplus earnings of the people, the following figures indicate the very large increase in their premium paying power

Insurance a means of estimating progress in wealth.