

800. The Canadian companies' share of the increase in 1886 over 1885 was 63·64 per cent.; of that in 1887 over 1886, 66·81 per cent., and of that in 1888 over 1887, 60·98 per cent.

801. 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 during the last few years, and consequent improvement in their condition:—

LIFE INSURANCE IN CANADA.—AMOUNT AT RISK, 1869-1888.

Year ended 31st December	Life. Insurance.
1869	\$35,680,082
1870	42,694,712
1871	45,825,935
1872	67,234,684
1873	77,500,896
1874	85,716,325
1875	84,560,752
1876	84,344,916
1877	85,687,903
1878	84,751,937
1879	86,273,702
1880	90,280,293
1881	103,290,932
1882	115,042,048
1883	124,196,875
1884	135,453,726
1885	149,962,146
1886	171,315,696
1887	191,694,270
1888	211,761,583

Life insurance in Canada, 1869-1888.