

Increase during the last three years.

818. The increase in the total amount of insurance in force in 1888 over 1887, and in 1889 over 1888, was very large, amounting to the sums of \$20,067,313 and \$20,202,119, respectively, as shown by the following figures :—

LIFE INSURANCE IN FORCE IN CANADA—1887, 1888 AND 1889.

COMPANIES.	Insurance in Force.		
	1887.	1888.	1889.
	\$	\$	\$
Canadian.. .. .	101,796,754	114,034,279	125,125,692
British.....	28,163,329	30,003,210	30,488,618
American.....	61,734,187	67,724,094	76,349,392
Total. .... .	191,694,270	211,761,583	231,963,702

Share of Canadian companies

849. The Canadian companies' share of the increase in 1887 over 1886 was 66·81 per cent.; of that in 1888 over 1887, 60·98 per cent., and of that in 1889 over 1888, 54·90 per cent.

Life insurance a means of estimating progress in wealth.

850. 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 the 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 :—