

Share of Canadian companies. 791. The Canadian companies' share of the increase in 1887 was 68·81 per cent, in 1888 60·98 per cent, in 1889 54·90 per cent, and in 1890 61·32 per cent.

Life insurance a means of estimating progress in wealth. 792. 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:—

LIFE INSURANCE IN CANADA—AMOUNT AT RISK, 1869-1890.

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
1889 .....	231,963,702
1890 .....	248,424,567

Life insurance lapsed, 1875-1890. 793. The following table, which gives the amount of life insurance allowed to lapse by non-payment of premiums in each year, and the proportions of such amount lapsed in each \$1,000 of risk, and in each \$1,000 effected in each year, will also help to bear out the evidence of the preceding table, that very material progress has been made of late years:—