

The most important corporations of this nature, extending their benevolent activity, with the help of general agencies and agents, to all parts of the monarchy are:

a) the proprietary „Azienda assicuratrice” in Trieste, taking fire and storm risks. Assured capital exceeding 1,100 millions florins, yearly damages indemnified amounting to more than 1 million florins.

b) The proprietary „Riunione adriatica di sicurtà” in Trieste. Assured capital about 520 millions florins, yearly damages indemnified amounting to more than 1½ millions florins.

c) The mutual Fire Assurance Institution in Vienna. Assured capital exceeding 70 millions florins; 60,000 assurers; 120,000 assured buildings.

d) The (proprietary) First Austrian Assurance Company in Vienna. Assured capital 335 millions florins; the yearly damages indemnified exceeding the sum of 1 million florins.

Besides these general assurance establishments among which the newly founded „Austrian Phoenix” must also be mentioned, there exists almost in every province a provincial assurance institution, the most prominent of which are: — the recently established Hungarian Assurance Company, and those of elder standing in Linz, Salzburg, Prague, etc.

Sum of the Assurance Capital (1861):

| | Florins Austr. Curr. |
|--|-------------------------|
| a) Of the first-rate mutual assurance companies (17) | 297,500,000 |
| (Accumulation 1,600,000 fl., Assurances paid 1,400,000 fl.) | |
| b) Of the first-rate proprietary assurance companies (27) | 3,064,000,000 |
| Total of the assurance capital | 3,361,500,000 |
| (Receipt of premiums 19,000,000 fl. Assurances paid 11,000,000 fl. Capital in shares [nominal] 27,000,000 fl.) | |

General Benefit and Annuity Societies.

Apart from the many institutions and unions for the benefit and provision of their members as well as their widows and orphans, there are also several general benefit and annuity societies.

But, notwithstanding some institutions of this kind existing since some time, the development of as-

urance transactions, annuities, life policies, reversions, etc. is owing to such first-rate institutions as the Vindobona, the Anchor, the Phoenix, and the Austria etc.

Savings-Banks.

Savings-banks are, with respect to erection and statutes, dependent on a concession from, and on regulations settled by, the Government. In the 143 savings-banks that are now established, there are at present lodged capitals amounting to 150 millions florins, of which by far the greater balance (about 90 millions florins) is in favour of credit on real property and is employed on loans against mortgages. The lowest deposition taken in these savings-banks is, with few exceptions, the sum of 26 creuzers, the maximum deposition is not everywhere fixed. The rate of interest is on an average 5%. The regulations for return-payments are settled so that especially persons in less easy circumstances are, in cases of need, accommodated, if not with their whole deposits, at least with the greater part of them, without previous notice.

Regarding the participation of the population in these savings-banks, there is to be ascertained that in 94 inhabitants of the whole empire there is one depositor, but in Vienna there is in 3 inhabitants one depositor.

The most extensive institution of this kind is the „First Austrian Savings-Bank” at Vienna (founded in 1819). It had, at the end of 1861, deposits of 39½ millions florins, and the property of its own amounted to 4 millions florins.

This institution pays 4½% interest for deposits.

Besides this, there are of note the Bohemian and Hungarian (5% rate of interest), and the Venetian Savings-Banks. The latter stand in immediate connection with the loan-institutes (Monte di Pietà or pawn-broking establishments) and cede their funds to them.

But the greatest influence on the material accommodation of the population at large may be said to be exercised by the smaller savings-banks established in provincial communities.

Total of capital invested in all savings-banks of Austria, Hungary included (1857) . . . 133,500,000 fl.
Hungary excepted 108,000,000 „
Number of parties 627,000.

Intellectual-Culture.

Direct and indirect products of the soil constitute the physical, the moral disposition and mental parts of the inhabitants, the intellectual power of a State.

The development of the last mentioned power has been advancing in Austria with surer and quicker

steps during the last 14 years than in many a period previous to this. Before all, due attention has been awarded to the culture of practical sciences and, in accordance with the spirit of this progress, both the primary and middle stages of instruction have been liberally enlarged.