



INSURANCE SOCIETY

"Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labour and to wait."

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The *Illustrated London News* has a weekly column entitled "Echoes of the Week," edited by Geo. Augustus Sala. —An American correspondent asks him, "How do you keep 'em up week after week?—the 'Echoes' I mean," and the reply is "We 'keep 'em up,' dear sir, mainly through the kindness and courtesy of a great army of correspondents all over the world, who tell the compiler every week a great deal more that is useful and entertaining than he is able to tell them."

On the self-same principle was INSURANCE SOCIETY started, and it does seem strange that among the four thousand intelligent men who compose that society in the Dominion of Canada enough items of news and of practical ideas cannot be sent in month by month to enable us to "keep 'em up" with advantage and benefit to all.

Is it that the blind rush after other men's bread and butter so engages and so embitters each member that they find no time to assist in advancing the general good.?

Is Canada to remain for ever a by-word in the Insurance world as a place where, in the mad rush for gain, each employs his whole energy in pushing his fellow against the wall; and, if he should happen to find a precious fact or idea, shall each strive to keep it to himself, thinking, blindly thinking, to reap all the gain himself?

"Live and let live" always has been the surest way to success; and the few, even in Canada, who adopt and govern their methods by that rule, assuredly do and will gain thereby.

If you know anything that would benefit your fellow-worker—fellow-worker, we advisedly say, you should be fellow workers not anti-workers—then open your heart and your pen and let INSURANCE SOCIETY have the benefit of it.

The illiterate mob never achieved a stable self-government, and why try to establish secret cliques by the name of boards or associations when each member declares to himself that he means to benefit himself and his company solely by his adhesion thereto.

Failure must and always will follow such conclaves. To be successful you must impart that knowledge which you exclusively possess in all matters of interest, and aid to make the association such that each and all are proud to advance another's knowledge and well-doing, and such that exclusive and selfish men shall be looked on as "pariahs"—aye, so much so, that there shall be none such left to mar society.

We would be glad to have it clearly explained to us why the Dominion of Canada does not have some such organization as the "Fire Underwriters Association of the North-West"—the programme of whose thirteenth annual meeting we present in another page.

The ordinary stock answers won't avail; "*small field*"—the more time to study matters specially pertaining to that field, and the less chance of each member being crowded out from speech by the large attendance of capable speakers; "*slower country*"—is not thirteen years time enough to be behind the times; "*underwriting ability nil from a scientific point of view*" then by all means, friends, resign your positions, and ask your companies to appoint men who know more, and will study more for the general good.

In Milwaukee, we see men holding positions that call for far more time and attention than any of you can boast of giving, who can spare part of that time, and are willing to travel hundreds of miles to benefit their fellows and *their juniors* in the profession.

They invite leading scientists to meet and instruct them; and, by friction of intelligent minds, and by hints from practical workers, each and all leave the meeting with more knowledge, more health, and more affection to their fellow-men than can be gained by decades of extra office labor; and such men are proved to be of far greater value both to the corporations that employ them, and to the special community which is their sphere of work, than the hardest and most laborious recluse that ever wore his health and his temper out in a thankless company's service, without having the satisfaction of knowing that he had been of any benefit to himself or to his generation.

Such Associations as the one we speak of tend abundantly to create a supply of intelligent juniors, and to show the younger members that their profession is of some eminence among the scientific bodies of the world; they tend to decrease the number of wooden-headed day laborers who are now a sore trouble to many Canadian managers.

Doubtless the reports of these Associations and of their meetings tend to draw the brightest of our Canadian youth