

DEPARTMENTS DESIRE TO AID SOCIETIES.

It is the desire of the Insurance Departments to give to societies all friendly co-operation and aid in placing themselves upon a sound and permanent basis, leaving to the societies fully the choice as to the adoption of any plan which is not contrary to law. Following out this principle, the Departments have freely given their time and service to this Society and stand ready to do whatever is possible for the protection of and in the interests of the members.

LIFE INSURANCE A BENEFICENT FACTOR IN SOCIAL ECONOMICS.

(Thomas J. Parkes, Sherbrooke).

As a beneficent factor in social economics, life insurance stands almost supreme. Getting hold of callow youth in its formative period, it provokes the habit of thrift, excites his ambition to produce a given sum in a given time—whether that sum is the yearly premium or the matured endowment—when tempted to spend unnecessarily the inexorableness of the due date of the premium furnishes an incentive to resist the temptation. The same is true of a large number of older people as witnessed by the remark frequently heard that their insurance premium is the only amount they can count on saving. The results are so great financially that in the neighboring republic one-fourth of the bonds of the best railway companies are held by the 20,000,000 policyholders of the life assurance companies, while it needs only a glance at the detailed lists of assets of our Canadian companies to prove that not only railways but traction companies, industrial companies, municipalities, school trustees and others are financed largely by the mites of the policyholders collected yearly by the efforts of our agency forces. If further proof were necessary, we might point to the statement that one-seventh of the savings of the peoples to the south of us are deposited with the life assurance companies.

Another consequence of this enforced saving—a consequence illimitable in its benevolence, affecting as it does not only its immediate recipients, but spreading out its life-giving beams to thousands yet unborn—another consequence is the provision thereby made for the old age of the assured or for the upbringing and upkeep of his widow and orphans. No surveyor's chain can measure the boundless fields of benevolence thus enriched to a golden harvest by the careful seeding of the life agent. It proves again that life assurance is a mutual alliance for help in time of need, not merely or even primarily self-help, but for the help of others whose dark hour of need will be illumined by the reflected light of those who have gone before.

Nor must it be overlooked that the more recently exploited field of partnership or corporation insurance furnishes further facts for proving life assurance a beneficent factor in social economics. More than one large business with its ramifications affecting the families of thousands of dependent workmen and clerks has been saved from disaster or, at least, from being seriously crippled by a policy carried on the life of its executive. I would instance F. H. Peavey, the Minneapolis grain elevator man, whose \$1,000,000 insurance paid at his death brought relief to his successors and enabled the banks to furnish credit to continue the business. No insurance on his life might have spelled disaster to many a farmer scattered over the vast prairies of the West.

As a beneficent factor in social economics life assurance may be accorded a place amongst the highest. It promotes thrift. It quickens self-denial into life. It matures youth to thoughtful provision. It crystallizes love into adequate expression. It lifts over financial crises (by policy loans and cash values) the man of affairs. It discounts death. It strips poverty of cruel thorns. It countermines crime by careful control. It furnishes funds for fruitful enterprises. It buttresses the home against the assaults of distress, poverty and crime.

WHAT THE INSPECTOR FOUND.

Automobile Salesroom.—Fifty gallons of gasoline stored in two tanks in frame building in rear.

Butcher Shop.—Quantities of barrels and rubbish in rear. Wooden door on smoke house.

Clothing Store.—Accumulation of ashes in basement. Electric wiring in show windows against wood and too light—dangerous. Drop cords wound around wooden pegs and nails.

Clothing Store.—Basement in dirty condition. Stairway and alley full of combustible material. Articles hung over electric wiring in basement. General untidy condition.

Cobbler.—Rubbish in rear room. Fuse box on electric wiring not properly installed. No protection under stove.

Confectionery Store.—Rubbish in yard and rear room. No zinc under heating stove in rear room.

Crockery Store.—Basement very untidy.

Dance Hall.—Ashes thrown against wood in basement near furnace.

Drug Store.—Wooden box used for ashes.

Dry Goods Store.—Electric wiring in bad condition—needs complete over-hauling.

Electrical Supplies.—Accumulation of rubbish in shed adjoining store and in basement. Electric wiring in basement in poor condition.

Express Office.—Electric wires fastened with metal staples. Old dilapidated wooden shed in rear. Frame store and hall building next door in tumbled down condition. Premises generally dirty. Building beyond repair.

Feed Store.—Loose shavings scattered about basement.

Foundry and Machine Shop.—Charging floor of cupola is of wood. Wooden boxes left on core oven.

Furniture and Undertaking.—Large amount of shoddy and tow. Basement untidy.

Grocery and Drug Store.—Empty boxes and waste paper crowded in basement. Yard at rear in bad condition.

Hardware Store.—Rubbish accumulated in rear.

Hardware Store and Business College.—Basement floor saturated with oil. Electric wiring in oil room hung on nails. Much waste in tin shop, basement, front building and warehouse. Putty counter at rear of store with boxed space beneath.

Harness Shop.—Electric wiring in basement entry nailed against wood.—Hudson Bay Clan.

The Dominion Bank has repeated the 2 per cent. bonus which it inaugurated last year. It is payable January 2, to shareholders of record December 20, together with the regular quarterly dividend of 3 p.c.