

## SOCIETY JOURNALISM AND THE ACCIDENT COMPANIES.

Considering the extent of its popularity, the insurance business is one of the most complicated in the world and one of the least understood by the man in the street. This is due to the fact that it is based on laws which are abstract in the extreme and in some cases profoundly difficult to understand. Marine insurance is one of the oldest forms of this business. The policy has developed through periods of constant transition when customs gave rise to new clauses and phrases. Probably nothing is more complicated to-day than a marine policy, but who would be bold enough to suggest sweeping improvements which would be of advantage to policyholders or to the business itself?

### GOOD FAITH IN ACCIDENT INSURANCE.

Accident insurance depends firstly and foremostly on the highest of good faith between the Company and the applicant. The benefits of the policy depend upon the law of averages so far as these averages are known. The ordinary man in the street does not take time to consider these things. It is safe to say that there are extremely few men outside of the insurance business who could explain the difference between insurance and gambling, in fact, people generally are not interested in these matters. It is the insurance man's business and if the insurance man has shown that he could be trusted in the past his contract is accepted for the future.

In the same way if the man in the street goes to purchase a typewriter, an automobile or a piano, unless he is a mechanic he does not interest himself particularly with the minute details of the mechanism. It is sufficient guarantee that the article which he is about to purchase has given satisfaction to others and there is every reason to believe it will continue to do so.

### RESULTS AND NOT THEORIES.

Experts in various lines of business might have distinct and different views which are put forward more or less in the way of theories, but the man in the street is usually intelligent enough to disregard these and concentrate his attention on the actual results. This applies to accident insurance just as much as any other line of business. The Toronto "expert" who has been venting his views in a society journal has been throwing out challenges recently of malpractice and what would probably amount to pure swindling on the part of accident companies. We were always under the impression that no business in this country was carried on with so much advantage to the customer (owing to the great competition in this business) and it is an agreeable surprise to find that this "expert" had nothing weighty to tell his readers against the companies in question. He

had merely discovered old reports of malpractice in a United States Blue Book.

### THE RIGHT QUARTER FOR ADVICE.

In any case, accident policyholders would do well to think twice before sending their policies to strangers or in any way dancing to the tune of alarmists or self-styled "experts." If they have any doubt in their minds at all regarding their policy, the proper person to guide them is their regular legal adviser unless they are content to accept the word of any right minded insurance man in their district who has sufficient experience to guide them and who thinks enough of his reputation not to sell their rights for trivial monetary gain.

Accident policies were first issued around the year 1840. They were first intended to cover only the new hazard of railway travel. Since then they have steadily developed; new risks have been assumed as soon as their actuarial values have been ascertained. The policies always clearly state what hazard they intend to cover and what they exclude. As a rule the greater the extent of the cover given the higher the premium will be. It would be utterly impossible for any company to issue a policy without restrictions except at a rate of premium which few people would care to pay. Even then it would be unfair to people residing in different countries and provinces because the word accident is scarcely interpreted alike in any two places. Considerable restriction has been placed by decisions of the Courts in some territories and much wider interpretation is given in others. The companies have struggled to draw up their contracts in such a way that the people of one province will derive the same benefit as the people in another notwithstanding these conflicting decisions. In this way the Company is able to make actuarial calculations beforehand on which to base the premium with a fair knowledge that the rate is correct in each locality.

### DOMINION TRUST COMPANY.

The Dominion Trust Company has received intimation stating that the Legislaure of Prince Edward Island has passed an amendment to its trustees act including in the securities available for the investment of trust funds, the first mortgage trust certificates of the Dominion Trust Company. The fact that the big British Columbia company's securities are regarded so favorably in Prince Edward Island is looked upon as a compliment to the management and also as a tribute of confidence to Vancouver as most of the mortgage certificates are based on property in Vancouver and the surrounding country. These certificates bear 5 per cent. interest. Large quantities of them have been sold to investors in Eastern Canada and Europe particularly in Scotland and Belgium.