Mutual Benefit.

Life is so uncertain in this busy, hustling world of ours that it becomes a solemn duty to every man who has others dependant upon him for support not to leave them totally unprovided for in case of his death. Many men do not from various causes save anything out of their earnings, and when the dread summons arrives their families find themselves in a position that need not be described. A man who could be guilty of such conduct, considering the various ways in which it can be avoided through life insurance, is not worthy of the name of man.

Always keenly alive to the best interests of their members, the various Commercial Travellers' Associations in Canada have inaugurated life insurance schemes which have proved most successful. The members themselves have also fully recognised the obligations incumbent upon them and have started mutual benefit schemes which are in a most flourishing condition. We propose in this issue to devote some attention to these schemes, as we are fully impressed with the fact that every commercial traveller should, whether married or single, support them loyally, and they can best do so by becoming members.

It was in March, 1881, that a special meeting was held in Toronto at which it was decided to form the "Commercial Travellers' Mutual Benefit Society." The originator of this humane scheme was the late Mr. Lewis Samuel, of Samuel, Benjamin & Co., Toronto, who was honored by being elected the first President of the Society. That year an Act of Incorporation was applied for, the members named in the charter being Lewis Samuel, William Christie, Warring Kennedy, John F. Ellis, W. G. H. Lowe, John Zimmerman, Robert Edminson, John Burns, W. P. Garvin, E. R. Poole, R. B. Linton, R. S. T. Davidson, James Sargant, of Toronto, Adam Brown, E. A. Dalley, of Hamilton. The Act of Incorporation was passed in January, 1882. The society began with a comparatively small membership, the death benefit being only $100, but it quickly grew in popularity and membership and the by-laws were amended providing for the payment of a definite sum upon each certificate, $1,000, which certainly was more satisfactory than the ordinary system of so much per capita. This sum has been paid to the beneficiaries of deceased members for the past seven years. Another progressive feature was introduced in extending the benefits of the society to wholesale merchants and manufacturers and their salesmen and clerks on equal terms with the original members. Up to date nearly $70,000 has been paid to beneficiaries at a small average cost to the members, making it about as cheap a scheme of life insurance as there is in existence. The only expenses are for the Secretary's office, the President and Trustees giving their services gratuitously. There are no canvassers to pay, every member being expected to help the Secretary as much as possible in increasing the membership, which has now reached over 1,700. Last year $12,000 in death claims was paid and $2,000 reserved for two other claims for which the necessary papers had not been filed, but notwithstanding this heavy call of $14,000 in one year, the reserve fund amounts to nearly $13,000, and at the close of the year there was a balance of over $1,200 at the credit of General Expense Account.

Any person in sound health between 15 and 50 years of age may apply for membership, and if accepted has to pay an admission fee of $2 and a small fee for medical examination. The graduated table of assessments is as follows:—

AGE AT ENTRY	
Under 25 years	$1 10
25 years and under 30 years	1 20
30 " " 35 "	1 35
35 " " 40 "	1 50
40 " " 45 "	1 75
45 " " 50 "	2 00

The annual dues to meet expenses are only $2. The average yearly cost for $1,000 is $9.10, a very trifling amount, considering the benefit to be ultimately derived from its payment. There are no restrictions upon certificate holders travelling in the United States, British Provinces and Europe, excepting in times of war.

Mr WARRING KENNEDY, Treasurer.

The advantges to be obtained by this mode of insurance need not be commented upon, and they should appeal to the common sense of every intelligent person. It may be pointed out that the Commercial Travellers' Mutual Benefit Society is the only society of its kind in Canada which is not only incorporated by Act of Parliament, but is licensed by the Dominion Government and is under the supervision of the Department of Insurance at Ottawa, which forms a guarantee of its stability.

Two important clauses in the By-laws are as follows:

17. Any member who does not pay to the Secretary the amount of the assessment within forty days from the date of such notice shall forfeit his membership, and the certificate issued to him shall thereupon become and be null and void, and of no effect.

(a) Every such person may again become a member upon payment of all arrears, furnishing a new medical certificate and such other evidence of good health as shall be satisfactory to the President and obtaining his approval in writing, which approval shall operate as a revival of the certificate.

(b) No forfeiture shall be waived in any case by payment after the expiration of the said forty days or by any action or notice, of or from the Secretary, or other officer of the Society without full compliance with the foregoing and obtaining the approval of the President as aforesaid.

(c) Non-payment of the annual fee on or before the 1st day of March in each year, shall operate as a forfeiture as in the case of default in payment of an assessment, and re-admission shall only be secured by full compliance with the provisions of this By-law.

21. Should any member in respect of whose death any benefit is claimed have been personally engaged in transportation of highly inflammable or explosive substances or in any extra hazardous occupation or shall have entered any military or naval service whatsover (except the militia when not in actual service), or shall die in consequence of a duel, or of the violation of the laws of any nation, state or province, or shall become so far intemperate as to seriously or permanently impair his health or induce delirium tremens, or in case the answers and declarations made in the application for membership shall be found in any respect untrue in any matter material to the contract, then the certificate issued to him as such member shall be null and void, and in every such case the Society shall not be at all liable thereunder or under the provisions of these By-laws.

The following gentlemen are the past presidents of the Society :— Lewis Samuel, John F. Ellis, W. G. H. Lowe, and R. L. Patterson.

The present officers are President, Jos. Bonnick; Vice-President, James Greenfield; Treasurer, Warring Kennedy; Trustees for Toronto, T. M. Bayne, Robert Crean, Thos. Dunnet, W. B. Dack, H. Goodman, W. H. Lailey, Hector Lamont, Joseph Taylor, S. R. Wickett; Trustees for Hamilton, Wm. Bremner and E. A. Dalley.

Mr. W. G. H. Lowe, a past president of the Society, is the Secretary, who has earned for himself the respect of every member by his admirable conduct of its affairs.

It is surprising to us, in view of the very small annual outlay, that every commercial traveller, young or old, and every salesman in a wholesale house, is not a member of the Mutual Benefit Society. The business is admirably managed, being under the supervision of two of the most competent actuaries in the Dominion. The members have every reason to feel proud of its success, and it is safe to say that no other society of its kind has such a thoroughly devoted and enthusiastic membership. Every member takes a personal pride in furthering its interests, and we trust the day is not far distant when all who are eligible will have their names inscribed on the roll of membership.

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