

getting the water on the fire, in fact, they say it was ten minutes before the firemen got to the fire, owing to the confusion in fire alarm signals. It is alleged that the city cars ran over the hose, cutting it, and necessitating a delay in replacing a length.

A lot of new hose has been purchased, and a grand trial of it made under the supervision of the Fire Department Fire and Gas Committee. "Everyone was surprised at the strength of the hose," they say, and a corresponding puff was given to the agent of the chosen band in the city papers. Things always go nicely at these tests and trials, but nevertheless hose burst very frequently when any serious fire occurs in the city.

Yours,  
ARIEL.

TORONTO, 15th May, 1884.

BRITISH AMERICA ASSURANCE OFFICE.  
SARNIA AGENCY, May 7, 1884.

To the Editor of INSURANCE SOCIETY.

DEAR SIR,—In justice to both myself and the "Headquarters" of the Citizens, I think it my duty to state that the epistle written by me declining to take the *Budget* anymore, was entirely on account of my own feelings in the matter, without any dictation from Headquarters, as the *Budget* terms it. I do not permit any of my companies to interfere in my private affairs, which I consider that I am capable of managing without any interference from the managers of my offices, and I also think that after the *Budget's* recent experience it ought to make no more wrong insinuations. \* \* \*

I am respectfully yours,  
S. L. HITCHCOCK.

#### DOMINION SAFETY FUND LIFE ASSOCIATION.

HALIFAX, April 10, 1884.

To the Editor of INSURANCE SOCIETY.

DEAR SIR,—This Co-operative grows when anything is said about its plans and methods of doing business, and would fain lead the public to believe that it is being persecuted by those wicked "old line" companies, while it is a well-known fact that it, through its circulars and agents, had for months traduced and decried the old liners before receiving the slightest public attention from any of them or their representatives.

From the outset it has pointed its finger of scorn at all old liners and said, "Behold I am not such as they." It has gone even further and has cautioned all and sundry against the co-operatives. By these means it has courted attention, and it would indeed be unkind were it not to receive some notice from those who seem to stand so much in its way.

The success which this society, through its self-laudations, seems to have had in forcing its plans upon the public is quite enough to warrant a more careful inquiry into the genuineness of the claims it puts forth than one would presume had been made by the Superintendent of Insurance, previous to giving it his certificate of character. What matters it to the insuring public who "Examiner" may be? The fact that he does not crave the notoriety which he might secure by giving his name to the public or to the worthy Secretary of the D. S. F. L. A., does not lessen the aptness of his queries or the truthfulness of his comments; he dares to think that every fair-minded reader who will carefully compare the literature and reports of the D. S. F. L. A. with what has been written by him will give him credit for having dealt with every point taken up fairly and without any attempt to equivocate or avoid anything.

The Dominion Safety Fund being, according to its own showing, the only one in existence, or at least the only one in the Dominion, dealing justly with its patrons, and presumably the only one in which

its members are not placed at the mercy of incapable and dishonest management, is certainly something worthy of attention.

Mr. Campbell, in his letter of 9th February, refers to an article signed by C. F. McCay which appeared in a late issue of the *Insurance Times*. In order that your readers who have not the privilege of perusing the *Times* may understand the "dangers and defects" of the "old style," which, according to Mr. C., are so vividly portrayed in this article, we quote therefrom what refers to them directly:—"The last number of the *Insurance Times* contains the unanimous verdict of many actuaries against equal assessment on the members of a Mutual Life Insurance Company for every year after their first admission. All agree that the assessments should conform to the risk, increasing slowly or rapidly as the risk increases. In my reply to your inquiry it was stated that the old companies do not conform *entirely* to this rule, as the accounts which they keep with each of their members charge them annually with the tabular risk on their policies, which depends only on the age of the insured, while it is well-known to every actuary that the increase of mortality on account of the age of the policy is for many years after admission five or ten times greater than that from the age of the member.

Some of our actuaries have tried to solve this difficulty and distribute justice to the recent and old insurers, but all of their efforts have failed and the new and old blood of all are mingled everywhere and reckoned at its average vitality. I know personally of some of these efforts and of their failures. I am aware of the trouble and labor it would impose and am not surprised at the neglect of this element.

There is another irregularity and injustice that might be mentioned. The various localities in our extensive territory have great difference in climate, soil, drainage, temperature and many other elements affecting their salubrity, and of these little or no notice has yet been taken by any of our life companies.

Mr. Campbell is welcome to all the consolation he can get out of Mr. McCay's article. Perhaps it would be well for him to induce his directors to adopt this writers' limits with regard to assessment societies. It might put Mr. Campbell's actuarial knowledge to the test.

We quote a couple of rare bits from articles referred to by Mr. C. as having appeared in the Jan. No. of INSURANCE SOCIETY. The *Review* article says:—"The assessment principle of insurance as practised in the United States by the co-operative companies is a snare and a delusion. It cannot be too often repeated that the claim advanced by these Societies to be either representatives of the English friendly societies, or to resemble them in their way of carrying on their business, is simply a deliberate and premeditated fraud."

The *Post Magazine* article says:—"Fortunately in England assessment Life Insurance is practically unknown. It is based on an entire fallacy and can only lead to disappointment and loss to all who are entrapped into it."

We commend these extracts to Mr. Campbell's consideration. Surely he will not claim that the D. S. F. L. A. is not an assessment Society pure and simple. If he does we shall be forced to ask, "WHAT IS IT?" If it is not an assessment Society its literature is misleading, for it has freely and unreservedly spoken of its assessments and even the circular issued from its head office, and bearing date February 1, 1884, is headed, circular regarding quarterly calls at fixed dates and stated sums for dues and mortuary assessments."

The following confession contained in another circular, over the signature of Charles Campbell himself, settles the whole matter:—"A strict adherence to the certificate contract requires an assessment for each claim without waiting for the next, and a possible assessment for every month in the year."

As the Association increases in numbers such frequent calls will probably become an annoyance and inconvenience to those who do not avail themselves of the quarterly system.

If then the Dominion Safety Fund Society is not a co-operative or assessment concern what is it?

Yours very truly,

Examiner.

## SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA.

### UNCONDITIONAL INCONTESTABLE LIFE POLICIES.

THE objection is very often made to Life Assurance that the Companies may take advantage of some of the numerous and complicated conditions on the policies, and thus either avoid entirely the payment of claims, or compromise with the widow for a small sum. There is considerable force in this argument, but it cannot be urged indiscriminately against all Companies. The SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, OF CANADA, issues absolutely unconditional policies. There is not one restriction of any kind on them. The assured may reside in any part of the world without giving notice or paying one cent of extra premium. He may change his occupation at will; he may travel, hunt or do anything else without any extra of any kind. The contrast is remarkable with other policies. Ask an Agent to show you one; it speaks for itself. Remember THE SUN is the only Company in America which issues an unconditional policy.

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