

**LIFE INSURANCE NOT AN EXPENSE.**

Some years ago, the *Journal* of the Canadian Bankers' Association contained an indictment against life assurance in Canada. The article was styled: "Over-insurance and under-consumption," and its principal purpose was to protest against so large an amount of life assurance being carried by the people of Canada. The writer did not hesitate to designate a life policy as being in many cases "a debt which cannot be shaken off," and an expense too heavy to be borne by the majority of those who get insured.

No great pains need be taken to correct the somewhat general but erroneous impression that life insurance is an expense. It is really nothing of the kind. It is saving, pure and simple. People do not consider money deposited in a bank at stated periods, to draw against when needed, as an expense. The individual who puts ten dollars monthly into a building association towards paying for the house he lives in does not call it an expense, but a saving. Yet the life assurance policy represents both the bank deposit and the home paid for. Whether the assured dies suddenly or ten years after effecting his assurance, the premiums paid in all come back to his family in a lump, multiplied many times. Money in the bank may be lost by extravagant or foolish use, the house being paid for may be burned, but the life policy means cash without shrinkage or discount, available at the right time to put it where it will do the most good. A few cents for each working day of the year will make a comparatively young man the heir to a large sum of money, the necessary capital for a possibly successful business. It is idle to talk about the burden and expense of life assurance when we are confronted daily with cases where a little sacrifice of the present comforts of life would have enabled selfish men to make provision for those dependent upon them.

**INSUFFICIENT INSURANCE.**

It is comparatively easy to talk and write glibly of the evils of over-insurance, and to condemn in no measured terms, from a moral point of view, the companies for being lax in making proper examination into the value of the risks which they accept; but, while there are doubtless cases here and there by which the companies suffer through a fraudulent misrepresentation of the value of stock, extremely difficult of proof after a fire, we are convinced that the loss to the companies from this source of "moral" hazard, as it is called, while large, bears a very small proportion to the loss arising from insufficient insurance in Canada. It is not only in the smaller towns, where, if a fire occurs, one is struck by the small amount of insurance as compared with the value of the property destroyed; but even in the large cities we find merchants and shopkeepers who are looked upon as shrewd business men carrying an insurance so paltry in proportion to the value of their stock that a moderate fire means a total loss to the insurance companies, the excuse being that they, the merchants, cannot afford to pay for more insurance. Besides this short insurance there is always a very large amount of property not insured at all, and the consequence is two-fold, namely, that the income of the insurance companies is very much less than it ought to be, and the rates necessarily much higher than they would be if the conditions were otherwise.

**EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ACTUARIES.**

The Eighth International Congress of Actuaries is scheduled to meet in St. Petersburg, Russia, next year. The sessions of the Congress will last from May 31st to June 5th. The following program has been adopted of subjects for papers to be presented.

Subjects to be discussed by the congress: 1. The determination of probabilities and other quantities connected with social assurance. The consideration of a universal system of notation. 2. The scope and limits of the compulsory clauses in assurance contracts. 3. The practical value of select tables. 4. The calculation of mathematical reserves on office premiums. 5. The mortality among persons disabled by accident. 6. The reserve of premiums from the legal, technical and economical points of view. The rights of the policyholders to the reserves against their policies.

Subjects not to be discussed by the Congress: 7. Possibility of application of the theories of stability of statistical series, of frequency curves and of correlation to actuarial calculations. 8. Comparison between the mortality among the general population of a country and the mortality among assured lives. 9. The evolution of assurance law. 10. New tendencies in ordinary and industrial life insurance. 11. The effect on insurance contracts of dispensations granted on account of public calamities.

A programme of entertainments is being prepared by the Organizing Committee for the week of the meetings. The correspondent for the United States and Canada of the Organizing Committee is the Secretary of the Actuarial Society of Americas Robert Henderson, Actuary of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, to whom all inquiries regarding the Congress should be addressed.

**CANADA LIFE AND WAR SERVICE.**

The Canada Life Assurance Company announces the following regulations as to military and naval service:

First—No extra premium will be charged on policies now in force on the lives of any policyholders who may engage in military or naval service, in or outside of Canada, irrespective of whether such policies provide for an extra premium or not.

Second—For new policies the extra premium will be \$50 per thousand for active service outside Canada. Policies will be written up to \$5,000, except term insurance.

No extra will be charged for service in Canada.

**COMPULSORY SPRINKLERS IN MONTREAL.**

As but twenty-five per cent. of the business establishments of Montreal are equipped with sprinklers for fire protection, Chief Tremblay will recommend to the committee on legislation that means be taken to have all business houses fitted up with these sprinklers.

Chief Tremblay states that in many American cities it was left to the discretion of the fire department to order the instalment of sprinklers and he would suggest something of the kind for Montreal, though if the administrators of the city desired to modify that discretionary power, he would accept their decision.