

**A PERPETUAL DANGER.**—Many thoughtful insurance men consider that the greatest dangers for life insurance are those which may come from unwise legislation. Against a higher mortality or even a temporary pestilence, against a low rate of interest or even occasional losses from investments, they could provide premiums and reserves, which would probably prove adequate, but against the possibilities of unwise legislation no safeguard could be provided. If the State was to legislate in any way regarding insurance, its first duty was to assure the solvency of the companies and the final payment of all policies kept in force. Any rights or equities of those who discontinue their policies must be secondary to the primary obligations.—D. P. Fackler.

**ATTEMPT TO RESTRAIN THE SALE OF LIFE POLICIES.**—A remarkable petition has been filed in the District Court of Lancaster County by Charles F., David W. and George K. Brown, who seek to have Receiver Hill of the defunct Lincoln Savings Bank restrained from selling to the highest bidder insurance policies aggregating \$15,000 on the lives of the Browns, pledged to secure a loan. A novel claim is advanced that by thus disposing of the policies, the lives of the plaintiffs are placed in jeopardy.

The Brown brothers met with reverses, and were obliged to part with their life insurance as collateral for a loan. The policies may be paid only at the death of the assured, hence the claim is made that by transferring them inducement is offered to kill the parties insured. Judge Holmes has assigned the case for hearing at the next term.

**AN EMINENT FRENCH ARTIST DEAD.**—Puvis de Chavannes has gone, and with him the greatest of the near French masters. Rodin is left without a peer. Among the much that is *banale*, uninspired, and infidel in modern French art, "Puvis," as he was affectionately styled, held his solitary way. It was long before he obtained any worthy recognition; and, had he not possessed private means, most of the work which has made him famous would have remained undone. Like Mr. Watts on this side, he painted with small care of immediate remuneration. The American Art colony in Paris swore by Puvis; and we recall hearing Mr. St. Gaudens, the eminent American sculptor, remark that De Chavannes and Rodin were the only two hopeful features in the French art of to-day. However this may be, the world has lost another of the great masters. Simplicity and a noble breadth of design, that found its amplest expression in the huge Panthéon frescoes, were the chief characteristics of his work.

—The Outlook.

**INSURING PARTNERS' LIVES.**—The death of a partner in an aggressive firm frequently means an immediate lacking of more or less capital and the very time when additional funds would prove very advantageous to purchase the interest of the heirs. Frequently it is the oldest and most experienced partner who dies, and the withdrawal of his brains and the prospective retirement of his capital is likely to encourage competing concerns to make onslaughts on the business of the establishment whose mainstay is gone. The regular, old line life insurance companies

are paying with such promptitude now that it is a safe assumption that a death claim can be collected by the surviving partner or partners within two weeks from the assured's demise. The annual premiums involved are, of course, charged to the expense account of the firm and are much less than those who have not investigated the subject would suppose. Few mercantile or manufacturing houses fail to carry fire insurance, and yet the daily chances of partners dying are over a hundred times greater than a serious fire loss. Every man must die, but comparatively few stores or factories burn.—*Commercial Bulletin*, N. Y.

**RIGID LOCAL RULES PROPOSED.**—The *Commercial Bulletin* of New York published a telegram from Chicago on the 5th inst., stating that more rigid rules for the government of the local fire underwriting business are proposed by the General Committee of Nine appointed by the Chicago Underwriters' Association to investigate and report on the situation. It is believed that success cannot attend the efforts toward reorganization upon a fair basis until the companies themselves enter into an agreement to support the Board in any position taken instead of backing their agents in demoralizing practices. Such an agreement is being considered and will undoubtedly be reported as practicable. Another of the plans considered by the committee embraces the rate of commission which companies members of the Board may be allowed to pay their local agents. Such legislation, it is believed, can only be secured through the co-operation of the companies and with the aid of the Large Cities Committee. In some quarters it is predicted that a joint meeting will be held soon to discuss the subject.

The general satisfaction evinced by managers in the details of the St. Louis agreement lends support to the report that the committee of the Union controlling large cities will take a hand in the arrangement of Chicago affairs.



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