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La Canadienne Life Insurance Company. We observe that Mr. Hutchinson, M.P.P., in reply to an interrogation was informed by the Hon. Mr. Duffy, Provincial Treasurer, that the above company had not yet furnished the Government with a statement for the year ending 31st of December, 1899, showing the net value or reserve required on outstanding policies, and further that the company had been granted a delay until the 1st of April to furnish such statement. In a previous issue of THE CHRONICLE we referred to this matter, and the reason given by the company for not furnishing the necessary statement, namely, that it did not know how to compute the reserve on the class of business that it transacts. We suggested that it might not be a bad idea to ask the Dominion Inspector of Insurance to have the necessary calculations made. The Actuary of the Insurance Department at Ottawa would, we are sure, make the necessary computation.

Alien Law Amended. A law passed some time ago to prohibit the importation into Canada of any alien who comes here under a contract or promise of employment. The Act has been practically a dead letter, though a show of putting it in force has been made in the Niagara district, where the effects of the American law of a similar nature are often seen. Quite recently some Canadian workmen employed on the new bridge near the Falls, half of which is in Canada and half in the States, were taken into custody when they continued their work past the point of the boundary line. The American magistrate dismissed the case, as the Alien Labor Act did not contemplate such an incident being an indictable offence. The case, however, shows how unreasonably jealous are American workmen of their right to a monopoly of their country's industrial field. The amendments to the Canadian Act makes the penalty, for its violation, not more than \$1,000 and not less than \$50, which must be first approved by the Attorney-General or a judge. Suits will be very rare under such costly and tedious con-

ditions. The main clause of the new Act reads:—"It shall be deemed a violation of this Act for any person, partnership, company or corporation to assist or encourage the importation or immigration of any alien or foreigner who resides in, or is a citizen of any foreign country to which this Act shall apply, by promise of employment through advertisements, printed or published in such foreign country, and any such alien or foreigner, coming to this country in consequence of such an advertisement, shall be treated as coming under a contract as contemplated by this Act, and the penalties by this Act imposed shall be applicable in such case. Nothing in this Act contained shall be held to affect or control the Government of Canada or of any provision of the territories in respect of promoting immigration."

There is a gap in that clause big enough to admit all the alien labour in the world. It covers only alien citizens coming here "in consequence of an advertisement." If any one or any number of aliens come to Canada by solicitation, otherwise than by an advertisement, by, for instance, the inducement offered by letters, labour agents, or bureaus, such alien labourers would not be subject to the Act intended to exclude them.

Departmental Store Failure. The departmental store of Lepage & Co. has failed, owing, it is said, to keen competition. The location, at corner of two main thoroughfares, St. Catherine and St. Lawrence Main, should be as choice as any in the city, but its record is a most unfortunate one, marked by fires and failures. The liabilities amount to \$225,000. It is rumoured that the store will be taken over by an English firm. The concentration of store business in the hands of a few proprietors is having disastrous effects upon the efforts of a number of our young citizens to establish themselves in an enterprise built up by their own capital, skill and energy, in order to enjoy, as Burns said, "The blessed privilege of being independent."