

be necessary to lessen the borrowing habits of many policyholders. Insurance companies are not supposed to be philanthropic loaning institutions. Loaning money on policies is a worthy and helpful practice but like many other good things can become an abuse if carried to excess. That it has been carried to extremes is admitted by all, except some misguided youths who borrow money on their insurance policies to buy diamonds or automobiles.

AMERICAN WRITER PRAISES CANADA.

A few months ago certain critics in the United States sought to show by an elaborate process of reasoning that the Dominion was on the verge of a collapse. They pointed to our so-called adverse balance of trade, to our excessive borrowings and to our phenomenal expansion as evidences that a period of depression was at hand.

Canada refused to become ill, which fact proved disconcerting to our critics across the Border. Now the better informed American writers are paying particular attention to the industrial and commercial expansion which is taking place in the Dominion and telling the American people that they have everything to gain from cultivating a closer relation with their young, but thrifty, northern neighbor.

In a recent issue of "Munsey's Magazine", Michael Callahan writes in part: "A little more than a generation back Canada began to bound forward. Many things she has accomplished in this time. These stand at the front:

- Built one thousand miles of railroad each year.
- Increased her production of grain 400%.
- Added 2,000,000 population, setting a world's record in an increase of 34%.
- Increased value of the output of her manufacturing industries 142%.
- Increased her domestic trade 185%.
- Increased her foreign trade 90% during the past five years.

The Dominion now stands third among the nations in per capita trade.

The aggregate trade of Canada during the last fiscal year was \$1,085,000,000, an increase of 185% in ten years." Mr. Callahan also quotes many other facts and figures all indicative of the growing importance of Canada as a commercial factor in the world's progress. Certainly Canada has contributed very generously to the growth of the foreign trade of the United States. Last year, we imported from the United States to the value of \$441,000,000 and exported there-to \$167,000,000, or did over 65% of our total foreign trade with our neighbors to the South. The indications are that with the removal of duties on Canadian food stuffs entering the United States, our exports to the United States will largely increase, making that country the largest purchaser of Canadian products as well as supply-

ing the Canadian people with the largest proportion of their imports. The American people can well afford to give prominence to Canada and things Canadian.

OUR NEED OF EDUCATION.

According to the census returns just issued, there are 40,000 illiterates in the city of Montreal. This is a most unsatisfactory showing and constitutes a stain upon the fair name of this city. It is true that Montreal is the great drag-net into which the Flotsam and Jetsam of our immigration congregate as a very large proportion of the immigrants from Southern Europe settle in Montreal. We have colonies of Jews, Syrians, Austrians, Italians, Poles and many other nationalities all more or less illiterate. It must be acknowledged, however, that many of our French Canadian compatriots are almost equally to blame in the matter of education. According to the census of 1901, there were 310,000 in this province who were unable to read and write, while there were in the neighborhood of 250,000 children of school age who did not attend school.

We boast that Canada is the land of opportunity and that in this land with its boundless resources, there is work and advancement for all. We would like to know what chance there is for the boy or girl, or the young man or woman, who faces life as an illiterate? A man or woman who cannot read or write is forced to do the most menial tasks, to be the "hewer of wood and the drawer of water" all his or her life. Such a person must engage in the poorest paid work and will be the first to be discharged when there is the approach of hard times. Such a worker cannot become a skilled operator and technical or vocational education is wasted on such an individual. If Canada is ever to take a place among the leading industrial nations of the world, she must pay more attention to educational matters. Germany, whose phenomenal progress is a by-word among the nations, made her advancement solely through her emphasis upon educational matters. The same is largely true of England, the United States and other countries whose manufactured articles find markets throughout the world. One of the biggest questions confronting Canada to-day is the question of education.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Shop early—also wisely.

A bond makes a suitable Christmas present for your boy.

Christmas 1913 will be remembered by brokers chiefly as a lean year.

Perhaps "13" was the hoodoo which worried brokers all the year. Next year has no such unlucky number.