

years. But it is very different in this country, where a large majority who take out life policies keep them up to maturity. The real average duration of a policy in Great Britain, including every variety of assurance, is 20½ years. Those who are unable to continue their premiums are treated equitably and even generously. As to short-term policies, the cost is even less in the companies whose security is absolute than with societies who make a heavy charge for entrance fees. The combined labors of all the actuaries in the Kingdom, based on tables of mortality up to date, give the following rates as the net annual risk for a £100 policy, that is to say, nothing is allowed for office expenses or collecting. The English journal then gives the rates of an assessment company and of the Actuaries' table, side by side, thus :

Institute of Actuaries Hm. 5% Table.				Assessment Company.			
£ s d				£ s d			
At age 30.....	1	19	0	Payable	1	10	6
" 35.....	2	4	6	every	1	12	0
" 40.....	2	12	6	second	1	14	6
" 47.....	3	8	0	month.	2	8	0

The latter rates are very tempting to the intending insured who can be induced to believe that something can be got for nothing. . . . It must be candidly admitted that the net is spread in the sight of the bird. The hand-to-mouth nature of the scheme is plainly shown by the admission that the periodical collections from the members are intended to meet current death claims *in secula seculorum*."

The necessary evanescence of such concerns being pointed out, the writer goes on to tell how hundreds of these assessment companies in America have ended in disaster. The history of one that was started twenty years ago is most instructive. There has never been a suspicion thrown on the honesty of its management, and during the first few years of its existence members were rejoicing at getting insurance at "cost" price, the cost then being only about 1 per cent. This has now gone up to 5½ per cent., and its calls are considerably more than the premiums in the regular British and American companies.

Contrasting the worth of a policy in a real life company with that of a policy in one of these concerns, the *Economist* says, as to the former, "no security, in fact, within its limits, can be better. It is, perhaps, needless to say that the policies of assessment companies have no value whatever, whether they have been in existence one year or twenty. They have no surrender value, as there is nothing to surrender. If intending insurers would ask to be shown the policy which they are to receive for their investment in an assessment company, they would realize what they have ventured to describe as 'hand-to-mouth' life assurance. If this is not sufficient, let them ask to see the form of 'claim' to be put before their representatives. . . . Perhaps, however, the most convincing proof that there is no scope in this country for these attempts to hark back to the crudest forms of life assurance, is the fact that there are some eighty British and American companies, the majority of which can be pronounced thoroughly sound. Among these competition is most severe,

and it is quite certain that if business could be legitimately done at half the present rates, these companies would be found out-bidding each other." Their premiums, it is pointed out, are substantially identical, and the only possible reform is in the "without-profit" rates (that is, where the insurer gets no share of the ascertained overplus of assets over liabilities), which, in some cases, in the opinion of that journal, are too high.

MARITIME COMMERCE.

NOVA SCOTIA, No. 3.

Mr. Haliburton comments on the policy described in our last, that the utility of these restrictive measures has been questioned in more modern times, and the late administration have by several Acts of Parliament lifted the trade of the colonies to a plane consistent with the true interests of England, and the proper dependency of this distant part of the empire.

We have not room to cite Chaps. 44 and 45 of the fourth George, concerning navigation, the trade of North America and the West Indies. The other Acts permitted, regulated trade between the colonies and Europe, permitted the exportation in British built vessels owned and navigated according to law, of any article the growth or manufacture of the colony, or legally imported into the same direct to any foreign port in Europe. The other liberal provisions of these two Acts were afterwards consolidated with many other Acts into Sec. 6, Chap. 44, George IV., entitled an Act regulating the trade of the British possessions, which took effect on January 5th, 1826. One of the most important clauses is that which establishes certain ports, viz., Kingston in the Island of Jamaica, Halifax in Nova Scotia, Quebec in Canada, Saint John in New Brunswick, to be warehousing ports for the goods which may be imported and warehoused without payment of any duty on the first entry thereof.

These, with many enactments of more importance, constitute the present navigation laws of the colonies. Thus, says Mr. Haliburton, ended colonial monopoly, and with it, it is to be hoped, those ungenerous feelings which led many persons in Great Britain to suppose that any benefit derived to us from an intercolonial trade was indirect disadvantage to them, and the poverty of the colonies which that very monopoly created.

It must, he summarizes, be obvious to the inhabitant of other colonies that the political dependence of this country is little more than nominal, that he has much to hazard by any change of government and little to hope for, that while he is indebted to Great Britain for the free constitution which has been so liberally granted to him, the most perfect political protection and as much commercial freedom as he can desire, he is not called upon to bear any portion of the public burden or to contribute in the smallest to the national defence.

On a comparison of his situation with that of an inhabitant of the United States, we can discover nothing desirable, either

political, civil or religious, which he does not enjoy equally with the latter, while a government more congenial to his feelings, a total exemption from Imperial taxation, and a state of society more permanent and more agreeable, must convince that it is not his interest to become a citizen of a republican government.

With reference to these navigation laws, Bancroft, who when he allowed the "old war spirit" to influence him, could write with a certain bitterness, says: "They were an unmitigated evil, for the prohibition of planting tobacco in England and Ireland was useless. As a mode of taxing colonies the monopoly was a failure, the contribution was made to the merchant, not to the treasury of the public."

From the Navigation Act to the present trade laws may be compared as the progress from the old gas lamp to the bright and dazzling electric pencil which lights our cities and turns night into day, and yet there is a loud clamor for something new in the direction of trade enactments, something that will suit everybody, bring wealth to every man and contentment all over the land—the panacea of the visionary, the dream of him who is in a hurry to get rich by legislation.

PROFIT SHARING.

We have on previous occasions referred to profit sharing with their employees begun by Wm. Davies & Co., of this city, pork packers. We now gather from a pamphlet containing an "Address to Workmen," that the William Davies Company (Limited), which succeeds the firm named, continues the system. With this difference, however, that the bonus certificate system employed—described on page 1029 of the *MONETARY TIMES* for 1890-91—has not been found satisfactory and has been abandoned. Instead of it, the company hands each man a pass book of the Central Canada Loan Company, with the amount of his bonus for the past year entered therein. The company says: "It is our earnest hope that only a pressing case of need—the purchase of a home, the discharge of a mortgage, or the effecting of a life assurance—will lead you to break in upon your savings bank account. 'Rainy days,' accident, or misfortune come in every man's life. We earnestly hope that having a bank account you will provide for these things by increasing it. . . ." The company's pamphlet says: "By it [the old certificate method] the old firm made generous recognition of length of service to its employees. The new company, with only one year of history behind it, recognizes no such considerations, but while ever favorably disposed to those whose services to the business have been long and continuous, feel that it is the faithful, diligent, thoughtful, ever assiduous workman who chiefly merits recognition."

The distribution now being made is, we are told, mostly on a wages basis, but the company has seen fit to include a number who have not completed the two years service required for full participation, as beneficiaries in a smaller degree, as a recognition and encouragement to them. While the company will still require two years faithful service before an employee is eligible for full participation in the fund, "it may, in its discretion, continue to give some recognition to those who have been a shorter period in the service." The workmen are reminded by this pamphlet that