

THE LATE SHEPPARD HOMANS.

SUNSHINE joins with other publications of the life assurance world in the expression of sorrow called forth by the tragically sudden death of Mr. Sheppard Homans, the renowned American actuary, which sad event took place in Central Park, New York, on the 8th January, the immediate cause being heart disease.

Mr. Homans, who was in his 67th year, had been prominently identified with the actuarial department of life assurance since 1855, and was looked up to as one of the highest authorities on the continent. His reputation was not by any means confined to the United States. He was not less well and favourably known in Canada, and the actuaries and other officers of the Canadian Companies share the sense of loss so keenly felt by their American brethren, for in Mr. Homans many of them had not only an esteemed professional confrère, but a warm personal friend.

THE MAN WHO IS ALWAYS WANTED.

In looking over the "want" column of almost any great daily newspaper, we cannot but be impressed with the number of wants which seem never to be supplied. "Help wanted, male"; "Help wanted, female"; "Situations wanted, male"; "Situations wanted, female"—what a lot of wants! That gem of Platonic philosophy which is that "a man's happiness consists not in increasing his possessions but in diminishing his desires," appears to fail of practice however it may thrive as precept; or, it may be that these people are trying to increase the happiness of others instead of their own. What a lot of wants!

No, that is not the true state of affairs. The supply of men and women has run short, and all these people are in distress, else why do they call for "help." There is an exodus of all the people all the time, for nobody will stay at home to do the chores.

Square men are wanted and lots of them. The Church, the Bar, the Legislature, the Press, all need men of the first rank, not because men of the first rank are lacking in any of these avenues of human effort, but since in the multitude of counsellors there is safety, so in the multitude of brains there is wisdom and brilliancy.

What a delightful book could be written about the wants wanted by the different kinds of people!—The man who wrote that piece about man wanting little here below, must have had most enlarged views about what constituted littleness, or else he didn't mean that. That master of England, Carlisle, tells us that savage man's first desire for covering was not to conceal his nakedness, but for ornament. He knew not that he was naked. He found that out afterwards. And then the spirit of interrogation entered into him, his heirs and assigns forever. His wants are now as numberless as the stars of heaven, and all human effort is to the end that his Oliver Twist hunger for more may be gratified. He wants to unbind the sweet influences of the Pleades, and unloose the bands of Orion. He wants to know what song the morning stars sang when they sang together and all the Sons of God shouted for joy. He would take unto himself the wings of the eagle and fly to the uttermost parts of the earth, and he would wheel the sun, shining in his strength to cook for him his rasher of bacon for breakfast withal.

But the man who is always wanted, what about him? The strong arm of the law wants him may be for "nothing" as usual, and reaches out to where it thinks he is—crouching and shuddering in his corner. But the victim is not there now the big fist closes upon itself, and then that particular man is wanted more than before.

But there is another man who is always wanted. Who wants *him*? THE SUN LIFE OF CANADA. We want him upon our books, we want him to carry a life policy with us, and the "\$1,000 man" is the man we want. He and all his family have lived in your neighbourhood for many years; a family