

exacting forfeitures and fines in an outrageous way. It was stated before the House last month that one company had made no less than \$72,000 by forfeitures.

There are thousands of shareholders in the many terminating loan companies of this Province who do not understand the nature of the investment they have made, nor the rules and regulations under which they have come in joining these societies. They have been "talked into it," as many of them will tell you, by canvassers long of tongue and short of conscience. These poor people, some of them minors, had bound themselves, foolishly to be sure, but unknowingly, to pay certain sums at certain dates for seven, eight, or ten years. They had also bound themselves, although they did not know it, to let their money lie in the company for so long a time; and this time of "maturing shares" was often postponed. Then they found, with an awakening start, that when because of misfortune they could not keep up their payments, the amounts paid had been forfeited. It was the cruel injustice of this provision that probably induced the Legislature to order new regulations.

These regulations are to come into force on the 10th of September this year, and are to apply to all terminating and instalment shares issued thereafter. It is provided that, when issuing shares requiring a stated number of weekly or monthly payments, such payments shall not extend over a longer period than ten years. And when the stated payments are made the holder shall not be subject to any further demand or liability. The issue of a prepaid share also relieves the holder from further liabilities with respect to it. The payment of instalments for three years on instalment shares entitles the payer to recover the amount of his payments with interest. If such payments have been made for less than three years but more than six months, 90 per cent, of the actual amount paid may be recovered at the end of three years. The amount of a prepaid share can be recovered with interest after five years. While these provisions cannot get back for the unhappy losers the moneys they have lost in recent years by forfeitures, they will protect others from injustice and spoliation.

FORESTERS' DEATH LOSSES INCREASING.

Some years ago, when that clever promoter, Dr. Oronhyatekha, first began booming the Independent Order of Foresters, he was very fond of calling attention to the circumstance that the losses by death in that society were not increasing. In fact he proved by the general statistics of Great Britain and the United States that death losses do not usually increase from year to year. But of late years it has been made abundantly manifest that in assessment societies, as well as in life insurance companies, people die faster per thousand members as they grow older. It is also made plain that in consequence of this, the assessments are sure to increase in any society which acts on the principle of calling on the members for not much more than is needed to meet each current year's claim. Nearly all assessment societies now see, as they could not do a dozen years ago, the necessity of accumulating a reserve fund. Some of them are succeeding in doing this in a small way, but others are rapidly los-

ing their healthiest members in the effort to accomplish it.

Signs are not wanting to show that in Canada, where the Independent Order of Foresters has been in operation for nearly thirty years, the deaths in that order, among Canadian members, are now becoming increasingly numerous. Those persons who joined twenty-five years ago at say 45 and 50 years' of age, are now aged seventy or more, and the death rate upon persons of that age and over is bidding fair to render the outgo larger than the income.

The Canadian blue books show that in the case of the newer membership in the Order, from outside of the Dominion, the death losses leave a large margin of the year's income to the good. But in the case of the Canadian membership, the margin of income available for increase of the reserve fund is becoming alarmingly small. The claims paid on the Canadian business in force the past year (\$84,455,000), were \$826,816 in amount, while upon \$140,394,500 of business in force outside only \$741,820 was called for. The income on Canadian business was \$1,050,507, and the outgo on Canadian business, as above, \$826,816, thus leaving only the small sum of \$223,691 to the good. But from outside Canada there came \$1,806,401 for premiums during the year; and \$741,820 taken from that sum leaves \$1,064,581 to add to the funds. This is a very noteworthy difference. There are 78,027 certificates* of the I.O.F. in force in Canada, and 127,342 in force in other countries. And yet the 78,027 domestic membership cost during the year 1902 in death losses, \$84,996 more money than did the 127,342 members from outside. What is the reason of this?

The reason is obvious. Very few new members are joining in Canada compared with the number of old ones, and the losses by death are always lighter upon young men, fresh from the medical examiners' hands, than upon those who joined long years ago, and are now verging upon seventy or eighty years of age. Only \$6,837,000 of new certificates were taken out in Canada last year, as compared with \$17,672,500 or nearly three times the amount, from foreign countries. And then, over against the \$6,837,000 rushed on to the books in Canada, the blue book shows that no less than \$3,690,500 of Canadian membership dropped out, leaving an increase of certificates held by Canadians of only \$3,146,500 during 1902. Lapses on the outside business were pretty heavy also. New certificates for \$17,672,500 were issued to foreigners, but an immense number of these foreigners must have dropped out after a few months' experience. The increase for the year was only \$6,585,500, showing that \$11,087,000 went out by death and lapse among the outsiders, besides the \$3,690,500 of Canadians.

The total of the new certificates issued by the I.O.F. in 1902 was \$24,509,500, while the increase to the total amount in force was only \$10,276,000. This certainly shows an extensive leakage, whatever way it may be accounted for. The difference between the amount put on and the amount found there in the shape of increase at the close of the year foots up to \$14,233,500. Of this huge sum only \$1,551,536 is attributable to the death losses.

Put into tabular form, somewhat as in the blue book, these figures arrange themselves as follows:—