

A STRANGE VIEW OF LIFE INSURANCE.

Many wrong-headed ideas of the purport and meaning of life insurance have been promulgated, and not a few of them during the course of recent revelations. But for downright misapprehension and perversion of its first principles commend us to a little circular which, we understand, has been broadcasted by a certain New Jersey clergyman named Blanchard. His starting point is that the business of life insurance is "unethical on first principles, unnatural in methods and of no benefit to the large majority of policy-holders" its chief motive being the enrichment of a few promoters and not the greatest good of the greatest number. His argument is in the main a resurrection of the old taunt that "you must die to win." True, in some measure, the man who insures his life and then dies young reaps in proportion a larger reward from his insurance (or rather his family does) than the man whose life is prolonged. But what is that but an incisive illustration of the fundamentally moral aspect of the business, namely, that the strong help to bear the burden of the weak. Mr. Blanchard also considers as "unnatural" the endowment plan whereby a man receives a fortune at a certain age, though in this, as in other expressions of opinion, he is rather difficult to follow. He claims that such a system is as though a person were required to attain a certain age before he could enjoy life. How so? Because a person puts away a certain portion of the surplus of his earnings not required now in order to have something in reserve when his earnings are liable to be less or perhaps nothing, how does that prevent his present happiness. One would imagine it would have the opposite effect by tending to make the future free from shadow and anxiety. But probably the reverend gentleman is beyond being persuaded by argument.

MINERALS IN EAST SASKATCHEWAN.

A good deal of attention lately has been attracted to the mineral resources of Cedar Lake, which is on the Saskatchewan River, north of Winnipegosis, and connected with Lake Winnipeg by a waterway at about longitude 53 degrees. The neighborhood abounds in a black sand from which, it is claimed, a fine grade of steel can be produced, gold and platinum, and other metals are also reported. Not only this, but Cedar Lake possesses some measure of fame from its amber deposits, which are said to be the only ones of any size outside of the Baltic. Mr. G. L. Dodds, who has been talking on the subject in Winnipeg, sees a great future for the northern part of Western Canada. West of the great lakes, he says, there is cobalt enough to supply the world. An exchange of that city tells us he "has samples of silver, of copper that can be beaten without smelting, of asbestos, of white quartz, hard enough to cut glass; and he grows enthusiastic in talking about coal in unlimited quantities between the Hudson Bay and the Peace River."

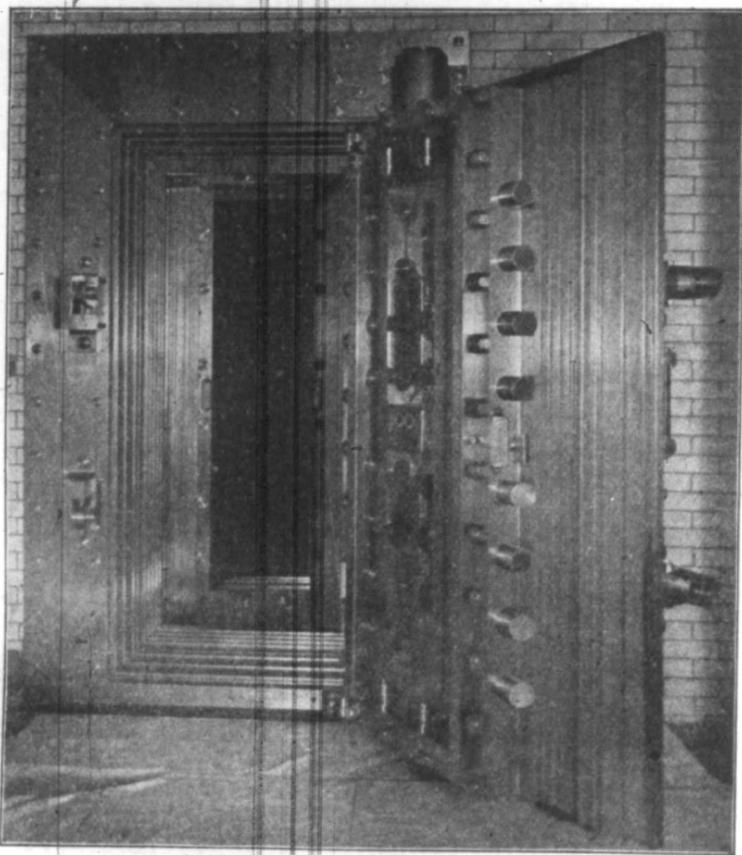
A proposal of Mr. Dodds is to get together a company of prospectors to be left by a whaling ship on the shores of Hudson Bay during the absence of the vessel on its expedition. The party would include an expert mining engineer, provincial land surveyor, and a geological expert. These would do their prospecting during the season and return with the whaling ship the following summer, when not only the proprietors of the whaler would be rich in whale-bone, seal oil, etc., but also the prospectors would have made their fortunes by their discoveries of sources of mineral wealth. At least, this is a picture painted by Mr. Dodds.

The Bank of Toronto advises us that a branch of that bank has been opened at Merritton, Ontario.

THE BACKBONE FORGOTTEN.

In the rush and excitement of the mining boom the agricultural possibilities of the Temiskaming district are being to a certain extent overlooked. The get-rich-quick idea has a powerful fascination for the human race and probably no better field for the cultivation of the appetite was ever opened than the spectacularly rich silver beds of this north country. The mining industry is here, and here to stay. It has been, and will continue to be, a profitable business, but that is no reason why the thousands of acres of fertile soil in the clay belt should be forgotten. The vast district surrounding and lying north of New Liskeard is fast filling up with farmers, it is true. It is difficult to estimate how many thousand settlers the country can boast, but certainly there is room and a good living, too, for many times the number. The clay belt is settled for thirty or forty miles north of this town and for twenty miles on either side of the railroad, but at the same time the available farming territory is scarcely scratched. So continuous and extensive has been the Dominion's advertisement of the Canadian West that the prairies are being rapidly settled. Why could not the Government agents now give some attention to the advantages offered in the fertile north?—*Temiskaming Herald.*

The London Street Railway Company intends, we understand, to increase its capital stock and bonds to \$750,000 each. It is now engaged in constructing a new belt line in the southern part of the city.



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