

and Covenant Mutual concerns ended, in so far as many thousands of people were misled by those still-living societies into believing they could furnish life insurance at half or one-third the usual rates. Probably more thousands of people have been misled and caused to suffer by the wrong-doing of those two yet living societies than have been cheated through the failures of the Mutual Aid, the Provincial Provident Institution, the Massachusetts Mutual Benefit and the Iron Hall, all combined.

That there is still a big "nigger in the fence" somewhere among the five large assessors operating around us in Canada, can be plainly seen by a comparison of their amended rates. That our readers may have the benefit of a square look at these, we will place them along side of each other, opposite ages 25 to 45 inclusive. And then a final column will show the discrepancy between the rate per \$1,000 charged by the first, and by the last two societies:

Age at entry.	A.O.U. Workmen.	Ind. Order Foresters.	Royal Arcanum.	Covenant Mutual.	Mutual Reserve.	Discrepancy.
25	\$ 8 40	\$11 28	\$ 8 16	\$14 04	\$13 88	\$ 5 88
26	8 40	11 76	8 40	14 16	14 84	5 76
27	8 40	12 24	8 72	14 34	14 10	5 94
28	8 40	12 72	8 96	14 58	14 22	6 18
29	8 40	13 20	9 28	14 76	14 34	6 36
30	9 00	13 68	9 68	15 00	14 52	6 00
31	9 00	14 16	10 08	15 24	14 76	6 24
32	9 00	14 64	10 48	15 48	15 06	6 48
33	9 00	15 12	10 96	15 84	15 42	6 84
34	9 00	15 84	11 36	16 26	15 84	7 26
35	9 60	16 56	11 76	16 74	16 32	7 14
36	9 60	17 28	12 16	17 34	16 86	7 74
37	9 60	18 00	12 64	18 00	17 46	8 40
38	9 60	18 72	13 04	18 72	18 12	9 12
39	9 60	19 44	13 76	19 50	18 78	9 90
40	10 80	20 16	14 40	20 04	19 44	9 24
41	10 80	21 12	15 12	20 76	20 10	9 96
42	10 80	22 08	15 84	21 54	20 82	10 74
43	10 80	23 04	16 56	22 38	21 60	11 58
44	10 80	24 00	17 20	23 52	22 50	12 72
45	12 00	24 96	18 08	24 84	23 52	12 84
46	12 00	26 16	18 88	26 28	24 72	14 28
47	12 00	27 84	19 76	27 48	26 04	15 48
48	12 00	30 00	20 72	28 58	27 48	16 68
49	12 00	32 40	21 68	29 88	29 10	17 88
50	12 00	34 80	22 80	31 14	30 90	19 14
51	12 00	37 20	23 92	32 40	32 88	20 88
52	12 00	39 60	25 20	33 66	35 04	23 04
53	12 00	43 20	26 64	35 52	37 44	25 44
54	12 00	46 80	28 00	37 50	40 08	28 08

The "Discrepancy" column is chiefly the difference between the new Ontario A.O.U.W. rates and those of the Covenant and Mutual Reserve. The two societies named last now charge nearly the same rates. They have had an extended experience as to what life insurance really costs on the loose assessment plan. They emphatically declare with united voice that the Royal Arcanum, and especially the A.O.U.W., are both doing business under false pretences, just as they did themselves a few years ago. The new vice-president of the Mutual Reserve, Mr. J. D. Wells, when acting as its manager in Canada, published a circular now lying before us, giving the former low rates headed "Mutual Reserve Fifteen Yearly Payments," and represented that "all policies will be nearly, if not quite, entirely self-sustaining after fifteen years' duration." To look at this circular must give a sickly hue to the countenance of the man who has paid for fifteen years on \$5,000 (a total at age 36 of \$1,119.75) and instead of having a "nearly" paid up certificate, he finds his assessments increased fifty per cent. One man who was paying \$12.06 bi-monthly was called on to pay \$18.06 every two months, for his \$2,000. And he had to do it, for he was too old for acceptance in any reliable company. But many thousands of people, feeling that they had been

sufficiently misled by the great Harper-Burnham-Wells-Maclay-Macmurtry combination, refused to have anything further to do with it. This is shown clearly enough by the Government record of business put on and business dropped off, in the case of the Covenant Mutual, as well as of the Mutual Reserve. Here is their record in Canada for the year ending Dec. 31, 1897:

	Covenant Mutual.	Mutual Reserve.
Business in force Dec. 31, 1896..	\$3,647,125	\$35,188,974
" put on during 1897	147,000	2,006,300
Total	\$3,794,125	\$37,195,274
Death losses took off only.....	62,230	320,500
Balance to be accounted for....	\$3,731,895	\$36,874,774
Business in force Dec. 31, 1897 ..	3,424,750	33,656,774
Disappeared during 1897.....	\$307,145	\$3,218,000

From which it appears that about twice as many old members got out of the associations the past year as were induced to come in, the whole amount in force shrinking seriously, many persons losing all they had invested, rather than pay such heavy assessments as loomed up before them for the future.

Referring again to the rates, it will be seen that the discrepancy column is larger, towards the end, than the A.O.U.W.'s and the Royal Arcanum's entire rate. If the other societies are anywhere near right, the Workmen especially must be fearfully wrong. They must be piling up a heavy death-liability every year, to be saddled upon those who remain in the ranks for ten or fifteen years to come, if they hold together so long.

The I.O.F. rates are somewhat exceptional, because they promise a cessation of payments at 70. But the payments are quite as inadequate to do this as the rates of the Workmen and Royal Arcanum are to meet the death losses, after a few years have passed over, without further increase of assessments. At every increase, healthy lives are driven out, a thing which does not occur in a regular life insurance company. Hence the cost must be very much greater in any association conducted for any great length of time on the assessment principle, no matter how low the rate may be. The assessment plan is wrong from the foundation up, and is now being supplanted throughout the United States by what is termed the "stipulated premium" plan, the rate being placed about as high as regular companies charge for mere term insurance.

THE "SELECT KNIGHTS" MUST PAY UP.

A judgment of unusual interest to all who are members of friendly societies having insurance branches or attachments, is that delivered on Tuesday last by the local master at St. Catharines of the High Court of Justice, in the matter of the Select Knights of Canada. This body has been for some months in compulsory liquidation. Its certificate of registry was cancelled on April 13th by the Inspector of Insurance, on the ground of insolvency. The liabilities, which amounted to some \$82,000, consisted of admitted claims due to widows, children or other beneficiaries, while the assets were almost wholly book debts, being unpaid assessments due by members or past members of the society. Proceedings were begun for the collection of these, and while some paid up about 1,450 refused. Their plea has been heard, and Mr. Macdonald, the Master, has decided that they must pay. We shall comment more fully on the matter in our next issue.