

\$124,727.85 is cash, the balance being the uncalled capital. The total income for the year was \$186,853.11, and disbursements \$90,924.96.

In the case of the London Mutual Fire Insurance Co., vs. Richard J. Doyle, an action brought by the managers of the Company, against the secretary and manager of the Grange Mutual Insurance Co., for the publication of an alleged libellous article or letter appearing in the *Owen Sound Advertiser*, the Jury considered that no damages had been sustained, and therefore found a verdict for the defendant.

WINNIPEG has a Water Works Company, and hopes soon to have a system of water works. Tenders for the construction of pumping engines and filtering beds, and laying of three and a-half miles of pipe, have been advertised for, the work to be commenced by the 15th of June next, and completed by the 23rd of May, 1882. The engines must have a power and capacity to deliver at least three jets of water simultaneously, eighty feet, and supply one million gallons per twenty-four hours. There are to be about thirty-five frost-proof hydrants, which the Insurance Companies will note some satisfaction.

CLOSE ADJUSTING.—In the settlement of a recent small loss on a building in Chatham, Ont., the Inspector of the company interested, estimated the damage at \$83.90. The assured being dissatisfied with these figures, engaged the services of a practical builder, who handed in his estimate at \$83.60. The company is satisfied that it has a careful adjuster; the adjuster is satisfied that the builder is a worthy man; the builder will be satisfied when he receives his fee from the assured, and the assured is doubtless now satisfied that it is a good thing to leave well alone.

"I WILL THINK ABOUT IT";

OR,

WORDS FOR WAVERERS.

It is a serious reflection that many men die while they are thinking of Life Assurance. This is all the more sad because in the majority of instances it does not require thinking about. Given a man earning an income only by his personal labours, whether large or small, and having no capital; then, if he have wife and children, dependent on him, that he should assure, as a matter of duty, or as a matter of expediency, is as clear as the sun in the heavens.

It requires no argument: neither thought. Show us any other way, less or more excellent, by which the provision can be made, and we will debate it on the expediency ground. But it cannot be done. There is no other way. Put any alternative scheme to a practical test, and the flaw will be seen. Life Assurance only is a perfect provision the instant it is effected.

Show us the substitute for Life Assurance and we will grant the necessity or desirability of thinking about it: but if you have none to propose, and you are placed as we have described, it is a business not for deliberation but for red hot haste. It is something to be got out of hand forthwith. It is not matter to sleep on. Before the day is done it should be settled. Some have a right to hesitate, but not you. The fate of the families of others may not be hanging upon the slender thread of a single human life.

But why this exceeding haste? say you. Why not tarry and let things take their course? Why? For two reasons. That present health and life have not an hour's absolute certainty in them. And because delay begets delay. Your present procrastination will not end there. The "thief of Time" comes not singly. There will be troops of robbers following on the footsteps of the first, until a whole clan of marauders shall have made booty of the precious moments.

But "thinking about it" is frequently a false, self-deceptive excuse. There is no thought exercised about the matter. It is

not pondered upon, but clean forgotten, thrust out of sight and mind. If it were actually thought about as stated, half an hour's grave reflection would probably quite suffice to induce most to hasten with all despatch to an insurance office to supply their omission, remedy the mistake of procrastination.

What do men contemplating Life Assurance wait for? for a birthday; for health; for marriage; for children. But when there is a promise to think about it, there is an admission of its possible necessity or desirability at once.

It is easy to see that waiting for leisure is a complete fallacy. None is needed. The whole transaction, vast and important as its ultimate consequences may be, can be concluded in an hour! Grant the necessity for assurance, and then the only questions are the form it shall take, the amount, and the Office it shall be effected in.

He who waits for money in order to effect an insurance has reason on his side, for money is a very important factor in a financial transaction where credit is inadmissible. But the intending insurer who thus defers, frequently underrates his resources and overrates the extent of the immediate outlay which will be requisite to carry his intentions into practical effect. A spirited effort to earn somewhat more than hitherto, or a stroke of moral heroism to dispense with something superfluous, will usually provide the means if the mind is willing. While, on the other hand, Insurance Offices have provided various schemes for lightening the burden of premiums on moderate incomes during the earlier years of the contract, when the incidence is heaviest. Quarterly and half-yearly premiums instead of annual payments; half and third credit systems; half premium systems without debt; increasing premium plans. All these arrangements are the outcome of an endeavour to meet the requirements of those who desire the benefits of a policy, but have not the means for heavy immediate payments.

Viewed from a philosophic standpoint, the waiting for next birthday is a ridiculous ground for delaying an insurance. It will not bear any serious investigation. It comes to this: the intending says, I will put off the act, which I admit to be necessary, until the last moment during which I shall be admitted at the existing rate of premium. He proposes not to defer longer than that, because it would entail a larger yearly outlay. But throughout there is the wholly unwarranted assumption that he will live until next birthday, or that he will then be in an insurable condition, events which, however inherently probable, there can be no certainty about.

To say that a person out of health cannot assure is of course not strictly correct. There are persons who come under the category of chronic invalids who are perfectly insurable on special terms. It is a question of price, and that only. It may, or may not be, advisable to wait for an improved physical condition before proposing, but it is not always necessary nor always judicious to delay on that ground.

Instead of waiting for marriage or children, a more thrifty course is to prepare for such circumstances in advance, while the burden falls lightly, and the best terms can be secured.

To him who says, "I will think about it," we say, if there is a real urgent need of Life Assurance, hasten this part of the business. Get the thinking done with finally, quickly. It is time for action; let it be with you, lest it should become impossible,

"SAID AND DONE."

The Insurance Agent and Insurance Review.

It appears to be doubted in some quarters whether nitric acid is capable of igniting vegetable stuffs. Herr Kraut has lately stated that the inflammability of saw-dust, straw, hay, tow, cotton or wood-shavings, by means of nitric acid, may be easily proved by experiments, thus: A rectangular wooden case, about 25 ctm. long, and 40 ctm. high is filled to a height of about 20 ctm., with one of the materials named: on this is placed a glass vessel, holding 25 to 100 ctm. of nitric acid (of at least 1.5 sp. gr.), the rest of the case is then filled with hay, straw or the like; the glass is smashed, so that the liquid may be well distributed; then a wooden lid is placed on the case. In one or two minutes vapours are visible, a little later a thick white smoke appears (due to the decomposed nitric acid), then the smoke of the packed material. If the lid be opened in five or ten from the beginning, the case is filled with carbon in lively glow, and this on entrance of air is inflamed, and often sets the wood of the case on fire. The experiment should be made in the open air.—*English Mechanic.*