ness in Quebec receive for the tax charges of practically 2½ per cent. levied by province and municipalities? None, of course. Instead, a special tax is in effect levied upon the very citizens of the Province who contribute most to its stability and prosperity—those who by life insurance provide against the possibility of themselves or their families becoming a burden upon the community. Taxation falls upon policyholders, not upon companies as such. It involves unfair and redundant taxation upon the policyholders themselves, who have already made their full contribution to the community. The thrifty man is thus discriminated against by a further levy, from which his less provident neighbour goes scot free. There is no avoiding the conclusion that it is against public polity to tax the premiums entrusted by policyholders to insurance companies. It is a discouragement of a form of saving which, for the general good, should in every way be encouraged.

But so long as provincial governments continue blinded to such considerations by the practical argument of revenue needs, the burden will persist. With provincial burdens as they are, the Dominion Government is in danger of limiting rather than increasing the service which life companies render the community, if it seeks to fix arbitrarily the margin for management expenses. Once more THE CHRONICLE would respectfully submit to our legislators that, with adequate publicity provided for, the details of managerial methods and expenditures may well be largely left to the working out of those directly responsible for the conducting of the companies' business.

If restrictions are enforced and if practical experience shows the expense margin within present loadings too limited for efficient working, the natural tendency will be for companies to increase their loadings—that is to charge higher premiums. Scarcely the end contemplated by the framers of the bill!

"NODDINGS" FROM TORONTO.

Even Toronto financial editors sometimes nod. The long-suffering printer will doubtless be blamed for a rather glaring error which crept into the Wednesday financial columns of an exchange from that city—a paper, too, notable among dailies for its accuracy in such matters. A transposition of figures made it appear that Canadian current loans, as given in the March bank statement, were some $5,000,000 less than at the close of February—instead of about $12,750,000 greater. And the editorial comment gives very convincing reasons why such a decrease *should* occur, despite acknowleged business quickening during the month. So convincing, that a Montreal daily follows suit and treats them as its own. The only trouble with the theory is that it is scarcely necessary, in view of the arithmetical facts.

A more serious mistake—since it concerns the business of an individual company and not of a group of institutions—occurred in the columns of a weekly financial paper on Saturday last. In a column of banking and insurance law notes, somewhat lengthy reference was made to a case of Dowker versus The Canada Life Assurance Company. Inadvertantly, no doubt, the wording was such that the casual reader might conclude the case to be now before the courts. As a matter of history—rather ancient history we are tempted to remind our contemporary—the case was tried in the year 1865, just 44 years ago. The lapse of time probably accounts for the trifling error of stating that the judge allowed the claim of $1,356. The records show the award to have been exactly £21: 16: 8, being the amount of one half-yearly premium. The policy was recognized as issued in good faith, but the court ruled that the plaintiff was entitled to have it set aside owing to the technical omission of its naming any beneficiary.

The General Financial Situation.

CONTINUED REDUCTION IN EUROPEAN DISCOUNT RATES.

New York Rates Still Hover Around Low Levels of a Week Ago—Discussion as to Wheat Situation—Dominion Steel Financing—Increasing Canadian Railroad Earnings.

Events in Turkey apparently are taking a course that will lead to a speedy restoration of stable conditions. While there must be more or less uncertainty attaching to a situation of this nature, and while there is a possibility that unfavourable developments may at any time occur, the financial interests chiefly concerned are evidently permitting themselves to hope that the Turkish question will soon be practically closed, so far at least as it affects the tranquility of Europe.

So general an ease in European discount rates as has ruled during the current week could hardly have taken place if the markets believed there was any serious danger of important complications. Bank of England rate stands unchanged at 2½. In the London market call money is now ½ to ¾ p.c. Last week it ranged from that figure up to 1 p.c. Short bills and three months bills are the same as a week ago—the former at 1¼, the latter at 1¼ to 1⅜.

In Paris, Bank of France rate is the same, 3 p.c., while the market rate is 1 7-16. A week ago the latter ranged from 1¼ to 1⅝. The Imperial Bank of Germany also maintains its previous rate of 2½