LIFE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA.

We have just learned that efforts are being made to induce the Government to release part of the deposit of the Life Association of Canada, in order to allow it to wind up part of its business. We have not time nor space just now to say much in the matter, but we must earnestly protest against anything of the kind being done. The law states positively that if a company desires to close up its business, it can do so by the method there described, and must then pay its policy-holders their reserves in full. To allow part of the deposit to be released at this moment is nothing more nor less than the sanctioning and conniving by the Government at a scheme of wholesale shaving of the policy-holders, many of those most interested being women and children, who may soon be widows and orphans. While perhaps not technically outside the limit of the law we would hardly like to say that it is just or honorable. The only persons to be benefited are the stock-holders, who should justly bear the loss instead of the helpless policy-holders. If the release of the deposit is not made the Association will soon be compelled to wind up in the regular way, while if the release is made they will be enabled to continue in their present course of freezing out the the policy-holders.

WORTH REMEMBERING.

An easy mental rule by which a person can closely approximate the effect of compound interest, is certainly well worth remembering. We have already quoted in a previous issue such a rule, but as all our readers are not yet familiar with it, it will no doubt bear repeating. It is this: Divide the number 72, by the rate of interest, and you have the number of years it will take for money to double itself at compound interest. Thus $1 improved at 6 per cent will amount to $2 in twelve years. (72 ÷ 6 = 12). How close this result is to the truth is shown below.

Length of time in which money will double itself at interest.

Rate of Interest. Per cent.	Time given by Rule.	Actual amount of $1 at end of time given by Rule.
4	18 years	$2,026
4½	16 "	2 022
5	14 2·5 "	2.019
6	12 "	2.012
7	10 2·7 "	2 007
8	9 "	1.999
9	8 "	1.993
10	7 1·5 "	1.988

Another very convenient "rule of thumb" enables an agent to roughly approximate the expectation of life at any age when he may not have his table with him. Deduct the present age from 80, and take two-thirds of the remainder. Thus to find the expectancy at age 30, deduct 30 from 80, thus leaving 50, and strike off one-third of 50, or 16 2·3, which leaves 33 1-3 years. The effect of this rule is seen by the following :—

Age.	Expectancy by Rule.	Expectancy by Institute of Actuaries Table.
20	40.00 years.	42.06
30	33·33 "	34 ·8
40	26.67 "	27.40
50	20.00 "	20.31
60	13.33 "	13.83

The Fire Agents' Association of Canada.—We have been favored with a copy of the Constitution of this Association which was organized in September, 1885. From it we learn that the following are its officers :—President, R. Radcliffe, Goderich ; vice-presidents, Jas. Pringle, Toronto, and F. M. Clark, Belleville; secretary-treasure., H. S. Casey, Colborne. The committee are :—Geo. Rutherford, Shelburne, Jno. McCullough, Deseronto; J. P. Secord, Orillia; John Davidson, Guelph, and H. McKay, Uxbridge.

IS THE FOREIGN WEALTH OF ENGLAND INCREASING OR DIMINISHING ?

In our article on Free Trade in last issue we stated, as a natural corollary of the facts there shown, that, " if the " imports of Great Britain should exceed the exports by " just the amount of yearly interest on all her foreign invest- " ments (supposing this could be exactly calculated), the " country would be exactly holding her own in regard to " these, while, if the amount were less than the interest, her " foreign investments would be increasing, and vice versa."

Since the above was written we noticed the estimate of the foreign wealth of Great Britain made by Mr. George Medley, a prominent member of the London Stock Exchange. He places the investments of English capitalists in the national debts, and all other securities of foreign countries which take the form of bonds or stocks and are dealt in on the London Stock Exchange, at £1,500,000,000 stg., yielding on the average five per cent or $75,000,000 stg. of income yearly. In addition to this, there have to be taken into account the other investments in the shape of real estate, mortgages, business interests, etc., which he places at another £500,000,000 stg. yielding ten per cent. per annum or £50,000,000 He thus estimates the total foreign investments at £2,000,000,000, yielding £125,000,- 000, yearly.

These are enormous figures, and we have no means of knowing whether they are correct or not. We will, however, see how the result turns out, supposing them to be approximately correct. In 1883 the trade of Great Britain was roughly as follows :—

Imports	£427,000,000
Exports	240,000,000
Difference	£187,000,000
Yearly interest as above	125,000,000
Imports exceed interest	£ 62,000,000

If Mr. Medley's figures are correct, it would appear as if England had reduced her foreign investments by £62,- 000.000 during the year. We however beg most decidedly to doubt the correctness of the estimate. The amount of stocks and bonds held by English investors may be correct, but we certainly think the amount of other investments far exceeds the figures given. Probably at the very least another five hundred millions sterling should be added, and even then we think the figure would be much under the truth. No doubt Mr. Medley got beyond his depth when he left the Stock Exchange department and tried to guess, for it is nothing else, at the amount of private investments. It would seem, however, as if England's foreign wealth is not increasing very rapidly, to say the least.

Total Abstainers and Life Assurance.—From a paper read at the meeting of the Actuarial Society of Edinburgh we learn that the experience of the United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution as regards its temperance and general sections, has been, that the percentage of actual deaths among the abstainers is very much lower than among the general class. In the former it being on an average 71 per cent. of the expectation, and in the latter 98 per cent.