

POLICY LOANS.

Reference has frequently been made to the definite harm which policy loans are occasioning, usually without particular thought on the part of those insured, through the depreciation of the protection for beneficiaries. When a policyholder needs money for any purpose, even though it be trivial and temporary, the practice has become common of turning to Life Insurance for that help, and of disregarding for the time being, perhaps altogether, the mission of the policy which supersedes all others in importance—the safeguarding of the family beyond the period of bereavement that is certain to be reached. The development of the loan habit operates unfavorably in these and other ways, upon which serious emphasis is placed: the policy is at once handicapped and the protection reduced; the insured is inclined to become discouraged by the yearly charge for interest on the loan and then to abandon the contract altogether; the beneficiary has a portion of the protection taken away when the loan is made and loses all of it if the policy be given up, and the company is under the necessity of keeping large sums on hand uninvested in order to be ready for whatever demand loans may be requested. The problem is broadening so rapidly into a situation of earnest concern to policyholders and companies that it had serious consideration at a recent meeting of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents, while at a convention of the Insurance Commissioners from the several States, measures were taken to suggest the passage of laws which shall restrict and modify the loan privilege in future policies. Well-intentioned as the loan feature undoubtedly was when first included in policies, it has so far outgrown the original ideas that these suggestions become both timely and necessary. Policyholders are urged to exercise reluctance in requesting loans; to keep their requirements at the minimum if they must have the money; and to make immediate plans for the repayment of the borrowed sum, in full or partially, with as little delay as possible—and all because it means so much to their own affairs to speedily eliminate the encumbrance.—(Fred. E. Richards, Pres. Union Mutual of Maine.)

COLONIAL LIFE AFFAIRS.

A promoter, L. L. Downey, is being looked for by the police of Toronto on a charge of fraud. He is believed to be in the United States. Information was laid against him by a Toronto legal firm on behalf of a widow living in Beamsville, Ontario, to whom he sold \$5,000 of stock by means of alleged fraud and misrepresentation.

The prospectus of the Colonial Life was filed with the Provincial Secretary over a year ago, and since then Downey has been selling stock at a premium of 15 per cent. It was proposed that the company would have an authorized capital of \$1,000,000, and the stock was sold on the strength of a prospectus, which, to say the least of, was very misleading. A number of the provisional directors denied even any connection with the company, as did also the actuary, whose name was mentioned in the prospectus. Stock has been sold by Downey in Ontario, Michigan, Ohio and other States, and a number of letters of protest from shareholders have been received by the Ontario Insurance Department.—(The Economist.)

FARNHAM & GRANBY RAILWAY.

The Farnham & Granby Railway Company has given notice of application to Parliament for an act authorizing the construction of a railway from Farnham, Que., to Granby, and thence to Windsor Mills.

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

The following patents have been recently secured through the agency of Messrs. Marion & Marion, Patent Attorneys, Montreal, Canada, and Washington, D.C.

Any information on the subject will be supplied free of charge by applying to the above-named firm.

Canada.

Julius Dorneth, Berlin, Germany. Line setting and casting machine.

Theodor Busam, Nuremberg, Germany. Apparatus for automatically regulating light in machines photographically printing on bands.

Romolo de Fazi, Rome, Italy. Motor spirit.

Joseph Dufresne, Montreal, Que. Threader for spinning bobbins.

Jakob Kraus, Brunswick, Germany. Apparatus for the separation and cleaning of grits, grain, kernels or the like.

Alphons Rappenecker, Bremen, Germany. Copying or like telegraphic apparatus.

Adolf W. K. Witte, Hamburg, Germany. Process for making butter.

United States.

Joseph N. Champagne, Ste. Clothilde, Que. Potato digger.

Norway.

George W. Abraham, Weston, Ont. Cuff link.

PRIZE GRAIN GROWERS.

(Special Correspondence, Journal of Commerce.)

Saskatoon, Sask., February 28th.—This week at the International Corn Exposition held at Dallas, Texas, U.S.A., J. C. Hill & Sons, of Lloydminster, Sask., won outright the \$1,500 trophy offered for the best peck of oats.

This is the third time the trophy has been won by the Lloydminster firm of grain growers, and it therefore becomes their property. It is instructive to note that during recent years, the world's most coveted grain growing trophies have been won by farmers of the Saskatoon district. In 1911, Seager Wheeler, of Rosthern, captured Sir Thomas Shaughnessy's \$1,000 prize offered at the great New York Land Show, for the world's best wheat. Last year, Paul Gerlach, of Allan, won the world's wheat championship at the Dry Farming Congress, Tulsa, Okla., and now the Hills, of Lloydminster, have, for the third and final time, secured the great oat trophy at the International Corn Exposition, at Dallas, Texas.

The following figures show Saskatchewan's grain shipments for the four heavy shipping months of 1913:—

	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Flax.
Sept.	12,313,050	217,550	718,800	434,000
Oct.	24,539,025	5,966,000	1,029,600	1,804,000
Nov.	22,107,375	8,821,700	962,400	3,083,000
Dec.	12,374,325	6,551,200	873,600
1913	71,433,775	21,556,450	3,584,400	7,430,000
1912	48,929,700	13,311,400	2,277,600	7,164,000
Total bus. grains shipped 4 months				
1913.....				104,004,625
Total bus. grains shipped 4 months				
1912.....				71,682,700
Sept. to Dec. inc. for 1913.....				32,321,925

FOREST FIRES.

During 1913, the forces on the national forests in the United States fought 4,520 fires, or nearly twice as many as started in 1912, the best year the forests have ever had. In both years practically 50 per cent of all fires were detected and extinguished before they burned over a quarter of an acre.