

advertised, and the money expended may be considered as a premium on extra covering in favor of the various companies. The particular weaknesses of employees giving rise to claims are common enough. Our daily papers are continually furnishing evidence of the frailty of human nature, the moral laxity of the most trusted official, and the absolute necessity for fidelity bonding.

The excellent influence on a person under bond is most pronounced and the ever-present feeling of some one having guaranteed his fidelity, must inevitably have its effect on the employee and be attended with beneficial results to the employer. The knowledge that periodical revision is made as to their habits, etc., and as to the desirability of continuing their bonds, frequently keeps many officials from succumbing to temptation for fear of the consequences. The system of selection also imperative in guaranteeing fidelity cannot but raise the standard of the personnel of employees generally, and the resulting benefit to the community and employers in eliminating undesirables is an additional reason for the existence and necessity of guarantee corporations.

MANITOBA'S MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Publication of First Statistics—Infant Mortality is High—What the Returns Show.

The first publication of the mortality statistics of Manitoba for the year 1909 in accordance with the International Classification of Causes of Death issued by the Department of Agriculture and Immigration makes comparisons with the causes of death of previous years impossible, but it shows the number of deaths from all causes, and the detail of deaths from important causes for each registration district or municipality.

A brief particularization of the causes from which the majority die places infant mortality in prominence. The number of infants who died during the year 1909 is 1,192, or nearly 27 per cent. of the total deaths, and represents a death rate of 3.1 per thousand of the entire population. The infantile mortality is divided as follows: Early infancy, 641; diarrhoea and enteritis, 405; infantile convulsions, 146.

Pulmonary tuberculosis shows a death rate of .97, or nearly one to every thousand of population; this is equal to about 8 per cent. of the total deaths.

Deaths from Violence.

Pneumonia with 227 and 231 deaths from violence or external causes, both show 5 per cent. of the total number of deaths.

Of the deaths from epidemic diseases, typhoid fever with 197, or 4½ per cent. of the total, is the principal cause. There were no deaths reported from smallpox, but in the category of epidemic diseases, exclusive of typhoid fever, there were 210 deaths as follows: Measles, 33; scarlet fever, 17; whooping-cough, 28; diphtheria, 71; influenza, 17; and other epidemics, 43.

Returns Are Accurate.

These mortality statistics have been compiled from the returns received from the municipal clerks, and every care has been taken in their compilation to classify as accurately as the return would permit, but the department feels that nothing like absolute accuracy can be counted upon when there appears in the returns such a large number of ill-defined or unspecified causes as follows: Ill-defined diseases, 287; other diseases of the spinal cord, 15; other diseases of the nervous system, 10; other diseases of the circulatory system, 7; other diseases of the respiratory system, 11; other diseases of the stomach, 37; other suicides, 15; other acute poisoning, 37; and other external violence, 51; in all, 493, or over 11 per cent. of the total mortality which is not properly classified. If the physician were to have given the proper cause of death, at the very least nine-tenths would have been classified under their proper heading; but when the following terms, which often recur in the death returns, are inserted, accurate classification is altogether out of the question: Asthenia, atrophy, collapse, coma, convulsions, debility, dropsy, exhaustion, heart failure, hemorrhage, inanition, marasmus, old age, shock, weakness, sudden death, and in causes of violent deaths without qualification as to nature of, or whether accidental, suicidal or homicidal.

The number of depositors in the Government savings department at November 1st was 185,939, and the amount on deposit at that date \$57,088,780. Thirty persons have purchased the 25-year government bonds at 3½ per cent.

CANDY versus LIFE INSURANCE.

Americans Spend Nearly Half the Amount for Sweetmeats That They Pay for Policies.

Mr. Paul Morton presided at the fourth annual meeting of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents, held at Chicago. About 85 per cent. of the twenty million policyholders of the United States and Canada were represented by the company officers present.

"Fifty years ago life insurance in the United States averaged \$5.25 per capita," said Mr. Morton. "Ten years ago it had risen to \$99 per capita, and to-day it is estimated as amounting to about \$150 per capita. Fifty years ago the total outstanding life insurance carried by all old line life insurance companies doing business in the United States was less than that now carried by Illinois companies alone. Within fifty years the volume of life insurance business has increased from \$165,000,000 to \$13,700,000,000, almost one hundredfold, though in that time the population of the United States has increased less than threefold."

"Educational forces in life insurance," was discussed by President James, of the University of Illinois; President Judson, of the University of Chicago, and others.

Candy Versus Life Insurance.

"So long as Americans are paying to-day nearly half the amount for candy that they pay for regular life insurance (excluding assessment and fraternal), \$748,027,862,—more for beer, nearly three times as much for liquor, three-fifths as much for tobacco, and two-thirds as much for automobiles, it can hardly be claimed that life insurance has reached the limit of its growth," said Mr. Edward A. Woods, of Pittsburgh, Pa. "Even when this is reached, a large business can still be expected because of the constant changes in population, replacing the dead by the living, and the old by those becoming of age, and the constant growth of prosperity."

Chief Wealth is Health.

"This nation is beginning to realize that the chief wealth of a country is not its property or natural resources, but the lives and health of its people. If it is true that the lives of a nation are worth three times its property, the \$35,000,000,000 of life insurance is not enough for the lives of American people worth over \$350,000,000,000. If the property of the country is insured for \$45,000,000,000, half that amount of life insurance is not enough, particularly when it furnishes not only protection, but saving. The part that life insurance will play in the tremendous movement, now just starting, to conserve health and even lengthen life is destined to be great."

Mr. L. Goldman, of the North American Life Assurance Company, Toronto, and Mr. T. Hillard, president of the Dominion Life Assurance Company, Waterloo, were present at the meeting.

TO DISCUSS COMPANY INCORPORATION.

The conference of provincial premiers at Ottawa, is being held in camera. Besides discussing the question of provincial representation in the Dominion House, the conference are also considering the question of company incorporation. The chief issue involved respects the relative powers of the federal and provincial authority in respect to such companies.

The Dominion takes the stand that companies which spring into existence as a result of provincial incorporation should be limited in the scope of their operations, and be, more essentially, of a local character. On the other hand, the provincial view is that a company incorporated by one province carries with it, ipso facto, the right to do business anywhere in Canada. The point has never been settled, and is a cause of recurrent difficulties which arise at every session of parliament and at other times.

The provinces asked for an amendment to the British North America Act, but the federal authorities took the course of appealing to the Supreme Court for an interpretation of the existing law. The former declined to be parties to the reference but at the calling of the case this fall they took preliminary objection, contesting the jurisdiction of the court to deal at all with the matter. This contention was overruled. Subsequently, a conference of some of the Eastern provinces was held at Toronto to discuss an appeal to the Privy Council on this point, and such action was practically decided upon. Leave to appeal has been applied for. That partial conference, however, decided to call the present general conference of all the provinces, and a final solution will probably be the first business of the present meeting.