

THE FARM, THE FARMER AND LIFE INSURANCE.

The most valuable thing about a farm is the farmer—and the most valuable even from the point of view of money. Actuaries have calculated the present value of annuities of one dollar at all ages. For example, an annuity of a dollar at age forty is worth on the average \$16.10. Now supposing a farmer age 40 is able to produce by his thought and labor \$1000 per annum out of his property in addition to his own maintenance, he would be worth to his family one thousand times the annuity of one dollar or \$16,100. The same values have been ascertained for all other ages.

THE INSURANCE.

Now it is strange, in view of the high money value of the farmer, that he frequently neglects to insure his life. The house must be insured, the barn must be insured and the stock, but the farmer himself is unprotected. This is not fair to him nor to his family. If the head of the house were taken away the farm and stock would be left, it is true, but someone must be found to take charge of the business and work the farm. Now an adequate insurance would provide money to engage the help necessary for that purpose. It is evident then that every farmer should have his life insured.

THE MORTGAGE.

It often happens that depending on continued health and strength and good crops, that the farm has been taken with an encumbrance on it in the shape of a mortgage. Although farmers live a healthful life yet they are not immortal and death is always possible. In the event of death who will pay the mortgage? The widow with the added burden of providing help to work the farm? It would be impossible and foreclosure would be inevitable. Now let us suppose that this farmer had been wise and had taken life insurance for the amount of the mortgage. At his death the liability would be discharged with the insurance money. Wherever a farmer has a mortgage he should carry insurance sufficient at least to liquidate the mortgage.—*Mutual Life of Canada Agents' Journal*.

MISTAKES WILL HAPPEN.

Mistakes will happen, even in the best regulated business; but nowadays the excuse of depleted staffs may possibly have to cover a multitude of omissions. A story now going the rounds, which possesses the merit of being true, appears to show that insurance companies are feeling the strain occasioned by the call of "King and country." It is said that a bedridden old lady possessed a cow that was about to calve. She told her bailiff to insure the animal. The village insurance agent was the local postmaster, grocer, fancy goods dealer, and seller of pious books. After three weeks the old lady asked why the insurance policy had not reached her. The bailiff brought word from the village Whiteley that they were so busy at the head office in London insuring against air-raids that her policy had not yet been sent to him. He, however, forwarded a written statement that the old lady had paid the insurance money, and that this receipt would be held as binding. The cow died; and it was then discovered that she was insured against—fire.—*Insurance Record*.

THE SERVICE OF INSURANCE.

A writer recently claimed that next to banking, insurance is the most important department of modern finance, yet there are thousands of people who would accept that pronouncement, and agree that it did not go one iota beyond the truth, while at the same time they would be in almost complete ignorance of the real nature of the services which insurance renders to social advance. This, indeed, is well said. But we are inclined almost to say that insurance and banking are the two most important departments of modern finance, and rank equal in their value to the world in general. A contemporary points out that the distinction between banking and money-lending lies in the presence or absence of a large element of risk, and adds: "By the skilled intervention of the insurance companies, handling practically every kind of potential contingency, including death itself, one event is set off against another in such a manner as not, indeed, to exclude the uncertainty, but to define with mathematical precision the amount of reserve which must be held against the chance of its occurrence. If your house were not insured against fire, lenders on mortgage would require the risk of incineration to be included in the price paid for the use of the money. As it is, the peril is averaged, measured, and finally reduced to such terms as will enable the exact calculation of the amount of reserve necessary to be held against it. All that remains to be done is to charge the owner of the property with a small contribution for the upkeep of this modest fund, and his security becomes at once a proposition which the most prudent and conservative lender in the world may handle."

We agree here, too; and in the assertion that insurance is an indispensable factor in the economic structure of society. There can be no doubt that without its influence the world's progress would have been extremely slow. In fact, the greatness of our Empire is in no small degree due to the vitalising force—commercially and industrially—of insurance.—*London Review*.

THE EMBEZZLEMENT RECORD.

Embezzlements during the year 1915, compared with 1914, as indicated by press notices and dispatches collated by the bonding department of the Fidelity & Casualty Company of New York are as follows:—

	1915.	1914.	Increase.
Banks and trusts.....	\$2,351,435	\$5,079,362	*\$2,727,927
Beneficial associations.....	462,054	276,057	185,997
Public service.....	652,847	555,571	97,276
General business.....	1,464,540	1,055,091	409,449
Insurance companies.....	150,888	112,386	38,502
Courts and trusts.....	287,596	134,555	153,041
Transportation comp's.....	232,859	498,869	*266,010
Miscellaneous.....	408,468	263,192	145,276
Total.....	\$6,010,687	\$7,975,083	*\$1,964,396

* Decrease.

THE BLUE GOOSE.

The annual meeting of the Michigan Pond of the Blue Goose was held at Battle Creek on Tuesday, March 7th, the head of the Order, Mr. J. R. Stewart, of Toronto, being one of the guests. At the conclusion of the banquet, a collection was taken up for the Canadian Red Cross Funds and \$107 dropped into the hat. This exhibition* of the good spirit of charity will be much appreciated by the Canadian Blue Geese.