

ations than France and Canada. In foreign politics, a large party in Quebec sympathize with France, and here a majority of the British population of Ontario imagines danger to lurk. This accounts for the different results of the elections in the two provinces. Let us hope it will not lead to a revival of the cry of "French domination," with which the late George Brown made the province ring for years, and on which he finally rose to consideration and influence. One way to guard against this evil will be for the Government to do nothing which will justify such a cry by way of complaint.

LIFE INSURANCE PREMIUMS.

[COMMUNICATED.]

Agents and newspaper organs of assessment associations, fraternal, and otherwise, constantly call attention to the larger premiums which the regular companies collect than any assessment society deems necessary. The man of age 35, they say, pays a yearly premium of about \$20, whereas the assessment rate is only about \$10 to \$15. And on these low rates, they say, all their losses are being paid, year by year, and what they call a surplus is being laid by for the future, besides. And then they point to the fact that the regular companies do not pay back, to the insured, more than one-half of what they take from them yearly in high premiums, and they want to know whatever they are going to do with so much money as the big, old companies collect, etc.

Superintendent Fitzgerald's blue-book, just out, gives some information, on page 21, as to the total premiums received and total payments to policyholders, by all the regular companies, during the past twenty-one years. We will give the first five and the last five of his table, and the total, to save space:

ALL REGULAR COMPANIES.

Year.	2 Premium Income.	3 Payments to Insured.	4 Per- centage.
1879.....	\$ 2,606,756	\$ 1,301,480	49.93
1880.....	2,691,128	1,389,986	51.65
1881.....	3,094,689	1,879,240	60.72
1882.....	3,544,603	1,946,444	54.91
1883.....	3,861,179	2,201,152	57.01
1895.....	10,887,501	5,862,447	53.85
1896.....	11,469,040	6,506,096	56.73
1897.....	12,197,626	7,076,962	58.02
1898.....	13,190,742	6,782,006	51.41
1899.....	14,490,102	7,680,959	53.01
Total .....	\$159,754,844	\$86,174,290	53.94

It must not be supposed that the amounts given in column 3, or the proportions in column 4, mean death losses alone. They include endowments, cash dividends, annuities, and surrender values. This will be better understood by another table showing what the \$7,680,959, paid in 1899, is composed of, found on the same page, 21, of the report, viz.:

PAYMENTS.

Death claims and bonus additions.....	\$4,604,416
Matured endowments .....	\$1,392,917
Annuities .....	104,718
For surrendered policies .....	720,384
Cash dividends to policy-holders .....	868,524
	\$3,076,543
Total amount disbursed, as above.....	\$7,680,959

From this it appears that, along side of each \$4,604 paid, as a death claim, there is a sum equal to \$3,076 paid to living members of regular companies in Canada. But some of the companies pay a much larger sum, each year, in endowments, dividends, etc., than their death roll, as, for instance, in 1899:

Company.	Death Claims.	Other Benefits.
The Ætna Life .....	\$253,146	\$427,474
The Equitable .....	328,138	355,922
The New York Life .....	318,886	418,927
The Confederation .....	215,805	307,973
The North American .....	148,716	154,265
The Ontario Mutual .....	169,174	189,856
The Travelers, life department..	59,581	102,991
Totals of seven companies..	\$1,493,446	\$1,957,408

These seven companies seem to be paying about \$2,000 to living members every time they pay \$1,500 for death losses. And as our country develops, it will become more and more the practice of good business men to prefer the endowment system of insurance, so as to make provision for their declining years.

But it is very evident that if the assessment society collects only a small sum, compared with the premium asked by regular companies, they give something for it that is not to be compared for excellence, or value, with the benefits the regular companies give. Endowment insurance and all single payment, and pretty much all ten and twenty payment life policies, bring back, in old age, more money than, and often twice as much as, the premiums paid in. But since the days of the delusive Iron Hall fiasco, whoever heard of an assessment society paying an endowment, or annuity, or surrender value, or dividend, out of its savings or accumulations? Almost every dollar collected is very soon called for by the increased death losses. A little margin, called a surplus, is laid aside for a time, only to be swallowed up by extra death losses a few years later, when new blood ceases to come in. Death claims increase with increasing age in any society, and many of the largest societies are now finding the illnesses due to old age rapidly creeping on. The American Legion of Honor, the Knights of Honor, the Royal Arcanum, the Chosen Friends, and the Modern Woodmen, were all very flourishing concerns up to a year or two ago. But now, no one would give much more than a brass farthing for the chance of either of them pulling through another ten years of life-and-death struggle with old mortality.

In a matter of such supreme importance as life insurance, it is better to err on the safe side, as to the price one pays, provided safety to the policy is given in return. But no show of an increasing surplus is of any real use as a safety fund if not based on sound principles, such as would be approved by the best actuaries. If insufficient, a surplus only beguiles more innocent people to enter and contribute for a while, until they see that the surplus and the membership, begin to dissolve. Then such people drop out and their money and their insurance practically goes up in smoke. They get neither their money back, nor a paid-up policy for it, and have no insurance left, out of the wreck. Many more thousands of persons have been the victims of this sort of experience, than have had any money paid over, at their death, to the widows