

that they pay under the obligation of fulfilled conditions of their policy-contracts, the regular life insurance companies of Canada and of the United States contest exceedingly few claims. Those that they feel constrained to contest in the interest of equity, justice and public morality, are few and far between—but as a drop in the bucket. When a claim is contested, it is always because of a violation of good faith by the other party to the contract. It is always, either because of original bad faith of the applicant, or because of his subsequent bad faith in violating the distinctly understood terms and conditions of the policy-contract.

No reputable life insurance company, such as those that are authorized and licensed to transact the business of life insurance in the Dominion of Canada and of the United States, will deliberately incur the odium that so frequently attaches to a refusal to pay even a manifestly unjust claim, unless it is clearly convinced that the insured acted so as to constitute a violation of the *bona fides* that it had a right to insist upon the observance of, in accordance with the stated terms and conditions under which the policy-contract was to remain operative.

No man need hesitate one moment in insuring his life on account of possible future complication over the company's liability. He can secure his family a protection that is absolute and infallible; and in order to do so, all that is necessary is to deal in good faith with the company when he makes his application and to preserve the same rule of good faith after the policy has been issued to him.

The prompt payment of a claim under a policy of life insurance rests absolutely with the insured himself. He can secure it beyond peradventure, or by the exercise of bad faith he may defeat his own purpose and intent. He can put the question of payment of the claim that may ultimately arise under his policy beyond the slightest doubt in the world, and all that he needs to do is to be honest. Let him preserve the same degree of financial honour and integrity that he would feel compelled to preserve in every other business affair and in every other relationship of life, and he need have no fear, but may know positively that when he dies the claim under his policy will be paid to his beneficiaries promptly and honourably, and as a matter of course.

OCEAN ACCIDENT AND GUARANTEE CORPORATION, LTD.

The "triple indemnity policy" issued by the Ocean Accident & Guarantee Corporation, Ltd., has all the features which has hitherto distinguished accident insurance, plus the triplication of indemnity in the event of loss of life, caused by accident to a railway conveyance propelled by steam. The policy is becoming very popular.

THE PROBABILITY THAT THE SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE WILL BE REPEATED.

The probability that the Pacific Coast will suffer from another earthquake in the near future such as has caused the enormous loss so lately experienced will be a question uppermost in the thoughts of those managers who hereafter contemplate maintaining agencies on that coast. Much light has already been thrown on this problem by the investigation of the character of this disturbance by scientific experts. It has been found that a line drawn for six hundred miles parallel to the coast and passing a few miles westward of San Francisco just outside the Golden Gate marks the line of the earth rupture that was the cause of all this disturbance. Had that line passed through San Francisco itself, scarcely a single building would have remained on its foundations. Along the line of this rupture, which is lost under the floor of the Pacific far to the north, the land on either side has been shifted some eight feet from its former relative position. The latitude of all places either on the east or west of the line has been changed by this amount, and in addition the land has either been elevated or depressed. The rocks slid and ground against each other along the crack which opened at places to unknown depths. No such violent and extended movement has been before observed in connection with any earthquake. From whatever cause the fearful tension which caused this movement has been silently accumulating for many years, at times finding some temporary relief in minor shocks, but at last like the explosion of a steam boiler, giving a substantial freedom from the long pent up strain.

The magnitude of the shock and the long immunity which that coast had previously enjoyed from serious disaster is the strongest argument against its recurrence in the near future. For some time, at any rate, the conditions which caused it have been removed. Generations are likely to pass before the strain can again accumulate to such a breaking point. The destruction of Lisbon over two hundred years ago was more complete even than that of San Francisco. But Lisbon has never since suffered. The readjustment was effectual. For these reasons it is likely that San Francisco will hereafter be measurably free for many years, at least, from earthquake disasters. Minor agitations may continue to be felt, for that whole section is, geologically speaking, a new formation undergoing the process of uplift which characterized our Atlantic borders ages ago, and of which the Charleston shock was a mild reminder. But as the earthquake dangers have been underestimated in San Francisco from its past immunity, so they are likely hereafter to be over-estimated in consequence of this fatal catastrophe.—"The Insurance Monitor."