

**BY-PRODUCTS OF LIFE INSURANCE.**

Life insurance has many by-products. The service rendered by the investment departments of the companies is one of them. Amounts collected in premiums are not sufficient to mature policies, but premiums collected plus interest earnings are sufficient. The investment of these accumulated payments of insurance is necessary, and the interest earnings are essential in the maturing of insurance plans. The insurance companies, therefore, become an important source of money supply and serve those in need of more capital—the man who desires to develop or enlarge his farm, or the man who plans a business block or a home, as well as the men who build railroads or plan and carry out other large undertakings. An examination of the list of bonds, mortgages and other securities held by insurance reveals a service in money supply far greater than is generally supposed. It is probable that many of the large systems of business, so useful in country-wide development, could not have been financed at all except for life insurance service.

**IMPORTANT SERVICE.**

Life insurance, with its brother organizations—liability, casualty and fire insurance organizations—is rendering tremendously important service in many directions. The companies insuring honesty in official positions and among employees protect organizations and employers, and furnish a strong incentive toward effective and honest service, helping in a large way to make business dependable and to inculcate rules of honesty in all business transactions. The casualty companies with their campaign of safety first teach people to live carefully and to avoid accidents. It is to their advantage to reduce the number of the halt, the maimed, and the blind to the largest extent. They want every man to be in the possession of his senses and to have two feet and two hands and to be efficient. The fire companies are teaching the proper construction and care of buildings and the prevention of waste. They want structures to be constructed and to stand for permanent use. Piles of ashes do not appeal to them. Life insurance, through the various medical departments and otherwise, teach healthful living and conduct extensive campaigns for the elimination of preventable diseases and for the maintenance of health. The span of human life is being lengthened, and the conditions under which we live are being steadily improved. These by-products of insurance, in the aggregate, render such tremendous human service that the most liberal estimate will be no more than a weak approximation.—E. W. Randall.

**GASOLINE RUNS WILD.**

Gasoline again demonstrated its destructive powers in wrecking two miles of Detroit's sewer system, and causing untold damage to other property, when 9,000 gallons of the fluid escaped from a tank car and found its way into the sewer.

This should be a forceful warning to anyone who has to handle gasoline or benzine in any form. It is more dangerous than gunpowder or dynamite, for the reason that it is not necessary to throw a match into it to get results. It is said that the fumes from one pint of gasoline will charge 200 cubic feet of air and make it highly explosive, and the least spark is all that is necessary to cause the explosion.

**ACTUARIAL BASIS FOR FRATERNAL SOCIETIES.**

The Ontario Legislature has decided to appoint a select committee to consider an amendment to the Ontario insurance act to put fraternal insurance societies on an actuarial basis. The matter was introduced by Mr. W. D. McPherson, member for West Toronto, who explained that he had been requested by some twenty Canadian fraternal societies to sponsor a bill. The twenty societies in question were licensed under the Insurance Department of Ontario. They had a total membership of 375,000 and carried insurance amounting to \$385,000,000. Their total income during 1914 was seven and a half millions and their assets at the end of that year were something like \$60,000,000. The change proposed, he explained, was one looking to a tightening up in the interests of the public of the business methods of the societies. The amendments he proposed was intended to protect 1,750,000 people by putting the funds of the societies on an actuarial basis. It had been charged that some of the societies were not solvent, and that unless the rates were changed they would meet disaster. The bill provided for an estimate every three years of the assets and liabilities of the societies, the object being to properly regulate the financial position of the societies.

**A TEST OF SANITY.**

Second Vice-President Wilson, of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, was foreman of a jury not long ago, in a case where it was contended that the defendant was insane and incompetent to manage his own affairs. Just before the examination closed the foreman of the jury questioned the man:

Mr. Wilson: "Is your life insured?"

The Man: "Yes, sir."

Mr. Wilson: "What kind of a policy have you?"

The Man: "A Twenty-Year Endowment Policy."

Mr. Wilson: "What company are you insured in?"

The Man: "The Equitable Life."

Mr. Wilson: "Why did you insure in the Equitable?"

The Man: "Because it is the best company in the world."

Whereupon Mr. Wilson arose with dignity and solemnity and addressing the court, said, "Your Honor and Gentlemen of the Jury, this man is not insane." (Great applause). When the uproar was stilled by order of the court, the Judge and the other members of the jury, without leaving their seats, spontaneously and unanimously agreed with Mr. Wilson, and the man was declared safe and sane.—*Insurance Press*.

**A STORY WITH A MORAL.**

Once there was an Insurance Clerk who wished he was President.

So a Fairy appeared with a bundle of Insurance Papers.

Read them Papers, said the Fairy, and load your Intellect, and then you can get anything you want.

The Insurance Clerk delivered himself of a plain human snort.

You're a Subscription Agent, he said to the Fairy, and your Scheme is to get me to read Insurance Papers. I never read Insurance Papers.

And so he remained an Insurance Clerk.—*Insurance Critic*.