

## KEEPING POLICIES PAID-UP.

The recent decision by the Ontario Court of Appeal in the case of Dewitt vs. the Mutual Life of Canada furnishes a reminder to holders of life policies that they as well as the companies with which they insure have their responsibilities in a contract of insurance and that it is as equally important for them to live up to those responsibilities as it is for the company so to do, if the contract entered into is to run its course and come to its natural conclusion to the satisfaction of both parties. In the case in point, there had been a partial payment in cash of the current year's premium and a note had been given for the balance. The note was not redeemed at maturity and shortly afterwards the assured died. Owing to a loan existing against the policy, there was not a sufficient amount of cash surrender value, as determined by the table of the surrender values shown in the policy, to continue it in force for the minimum period of three months through the operation of the non-forfeiture provision. But if the surrender value had been applied day by day, it would have prolonged the life of the policy up to the time at which the assured died. At the trial of the action, it was contended by plaintiff's counsel and upheld by the judge that the policy had been by means of the surrender value kept in force beyond the date of death, but this decision was reversed by the Court of Appeal, the judges holding that the policy had lapsed because there was not sufficient surrender value at the time of default to prolong it for three months.

### CARELESSNESS CANNOT BE AFFORDED.

This decision by the Court of Appeal is certainly in accordance with the dictates of common-sense. It has always been understood that the requirement of the setting-out of surrender values in the policy was in order to inform policyholders of the exact position in which they stood so that they should not inadvertently allow their policies to run out. The confusion that would result had the decision of the trial judge been upheld can be imagined. Under present circumstances probably many policyholders, who have been prejudiced financially by recent events, have got into the habit of thought that they can let the due payments on their policies slide for the time being—confident—though without exact knowledge—that the policies will be kept in force by the provisions regarding surrender value. It needs to be emphasised that in regard to the matter of his life insurance as in any other part of his business affairs, the individual cannot afford to be careless if results are to be satisfactory. If it is any way possible, let him pay up his premiums in cash; if, unfortunately, that is not possible then it is of urgent importance that the policyholder should inform himself exactly as to how long the surrender value contained in the policy

will carry it on. Want of care in a matter of this kind may lead to grave disappointment, and the fault would be the policyholder's. Agents at the present time can do valuable service by clear explanations in regard to this point. The disappointment of a policyholder, or his heirs, though it may be entirely the policyholder's fault, re-acts prejudicially on the cause of life insurance at large and any efforts which will avoid that disappointment are good service.

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### MR. J. GARDNER THOMPSON RETURNS FROM THE WEST.

Mr. J. Gardner Thompson, manager for Canada Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Company, returned last week from the West, where he spent a few weeks visiting the important centres where his company transacts a large business.

Business conditions, he states, are still depressed, money is tight, and those who are loaded with unproductive real estate find difficulty in meeting financial obligations. During the past year there has been considerable falling off in the population. The streets of the large cities, however, show a very busy appearance and it does not seem to the ordinary observer, that there is much diminution in the regular trading. Even in amusements, entertainments and the luxuries of life, there still appears to be a lot of money spent. There are not wanting signs of some improvement. In British Columbia there is a lively demand for shingles, which forms an important industry, and it is anticipated that there will be a material improvement in the lumber business when the European war is over.

In the Northwest there will be this year a much larger acreage under wheat than ever before and the spring outlook for the crop is most favourable.

Mr. Thompson states that with greater economy on the part of the people both individually and collectively, and with a good crop this year much progress will have been made towards more prosperous conditions, but even taking the most optimistic view, he fears it will be some time before business becomes normal.

Naturally fire insurance is suffering. Stocks and merchandise are low and premiums reduced, while losses are continuous and heavy. Matters are not improved from the fire companies' point of view by the temperance legislation to be adopted by the Province of Saskatchewan which some of the other Western provinces are likely to follow.

When peace is restored in Europe a large immigration is expected, and it is hoped within a year or two, the country will fall upon more prosperous times.

There has been a great deal too much money spent in proportion to the population, and it is incumbent upon the people of Canada to adopt a much more economical style of living, and thereby render Canada a cheap country to live in, instead of being one of the most expensive, as it is at the present time.

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The Marquis of Aberdeen has re-joined the London Board of the Canada Life Assurance Company as Chairman, a position he occupied until he was appointed Viceroy of Ireland.