

HOW MUCH LIFE ASSURANCE SHOULD BE CARRIED?

The proportion of income which should be devoted to life insurance is one of those quantities that varies according to circumstances. For instance, the man who has an assured salary and undertakes no pecuniary liabilities has only one eventuality to provide for—the loss of income occasioned by his death. But traders and manufacturers have, in addition to this, other contingencies to guard against, such as the depreciation of their capital in the event of realization being necessary on winding up their estates. There are many men whose incomes are large as long as they are managing the capital involved in their business. At their death, however, the income dwindles, and the capital invested may not realize ten cents in the dollar if in manufacturing plant, and probably not over half its cost if in stock. These are risks that call for protection, for all debts have to be paid, and the wife and family can not rank on the estate for one farthing in consideration of their moral claims. The merchants who have been selling to such deceased person at a profit, his clerks, and others employed,—these one and all are entitled to their hundred cents in the dollar, the full pound of flesh; but the wife who has been more devoted than any to the interests of deceased can not put in a claim for services rendered, and the estate is free from any obligation to provide for his children; for, until the claims of money are settled, mere kindred and moral obligation are of no pecuniary value in the eyes of the law. Although this appears arbitrary and unjust, it is not so, for the amount of indebtedness represents the capital of others loaned to deceased whereby he was enabled to provide for his own while living, and create an estate for them in the event of death, by assurance effected on his life. If he neglected to make this provision when making money by the aid of other people's capital, in the form of goods or labor, it is a fault for which he alone is to blame, and for which his own must suffer.

PERSONALS.

MR. J. G. RAINNIE, provincial manager for Nova Scotia, of the Employers Liability Assurance Corporation, spent a few days in the City this week.

Business, he states is brisk in the Lower Provinces. Halifax residents are hoping to have the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. extend its traffic to that City. This, Mr. Rainnie states, would be a great medium in building up and bringing greater prosperity to all branches of business to this already wealthy City.

MR. C. A. BOGERT, general manager, Dominion Bank, Toronto, has been spending some days at the Coast in the interests of his bank.

QUERIES' COLUMN.

In order to furnish our readers with information we propose to devote this column to replies to correspondents. Letters should be addressed to "THE CHRONICLE, Enquiry Department, Montreal."

Answers will only be given to such communications as bear the writer's name, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and only to questions referring to matters of general interest in regard to which the Editor of Queries' Column will exercise his own discretion.

1586.—A. B. F., Oshawa.—The transfer agents for the Detroit United Railway Company are Messrs. Kean Van Cortlandt & Co., New York. Yes. The Detroit United Railway owns all the capital stock of the Detroit & Port Huron Shore Line Railway (Rapid Railway System), and also all of the capital stock of the Sandwich, Windsor & Amherstburg Railway. The total mileage in operation including suburban lines, yard tracks and side tracks is 541½ miles.

1587.—J. T. O'C., Hartford, Conn.—The per value of the shares of the Montreal City & District Savings Bank is \$400, of which \$120 per share is paid up. The authorized and subscribed capital is \$2,000,000 paid up \$600,000. Dividends January and July. For the year 1905 the dividend was \$16 and bonus of \$4, in all \$20 per share.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS ON LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The text of the report from the Select Committee of the House of Lords on life insurance companies, has been issued, and is as follows:—

"1. The Committee find that there is an almost unanimous opinion amongst the leading British actuaries and life insurance managers against compelling foreign life insurance companies which do business in this country to deposit funds as a security for their British policy-holders.

"2. The principal objections raised by the witnesses to making it compulsory on foreign companies to deposit in this country funds (beyond the sum of \$100,000 under the Life Insurance Companies Act of 1870, to which reference will be made in a subsequent paragraph) for the special benefit of their British policy-holders seem to be:

"(I) That such a system would be contrary to the principles with regard to insurance companies which have hitherto prevailed in Great Britain.

"(II) That it would violate the principle that the whole of the funds of an insurance company should be available for the claims of all policy-holders alike.

"(III) That if any regulations of this kind were adopted, it would undoubtedly lead to reprisals on the part of foreign governments.

"(IV) That if any such deposit of funds were