WOMEN AS INSURANCE PROSPECTS

Interesting Data Relative to Mortality—Forty-three Companies Contribute to Investigation

Forty-three companies contribute to the Medico-Actuarial Mortality investigation, data relative to mortality among women. Their data is divided into four classes:—

1. Spinsters. 2. Married women, beneficiary husband. 3. Married women, beneficiary other than husband. 4. Widows and divorced.

While the records of the companies were given under policies issued from 1885 to 1908 inclusive, the great majority of the policies had been issued in recent years, less than one-half of the policies having been more than five years in force.

The expected deaths were calculated by the M. A. Mortality Table, which represents the average experience of the forty-three companies. The ratio of actual to expected deaths among the married women, husband beneficiary, was 126 per cent of the M.A. Table; and as it was only eighty-one per cent. among the spinsters, it follows that the mortality in the former class was about one-half that in the latter.

Comparisons as to Age and Duration of Policies.

The mortality among the class of widows and divorced women was about midway between that of spinster and married women. These comparisons take account of the difference in age and of the duration of the policies. Tables are given in the report which show that the mortality among women in the four classes combined is higher than among men at the young ages at entry, and lower at ages at entry sixty and above. It is shown that the mortality in the early years at ages of entry fifteen to twenty-nine is distinctly heavier among women than among men.

As it is well known that the mortality among policyholders insured on the ordinary life plan is not so good as among those taking endowment insurance, the question naturally arose whether the low mortality among the spinster, as compared with married women, coincided with the more frequent selection of endowment insurance by spinsters. The policies were accordingly divided by plan of insurance, from which it appeared that on the ordinary life plan the spinsters had a ratio of actual to expected mortality of 107 per cent., while the married women, with husband beneficiary, had a mortality of 140 per cent., and the married women, with beneficiary other than husband, showed a mortality of 126 per cent.

Under Endowment Insurance.

Under endowment insurances the relative mortality for these three classes of risks was 76 per cent., 114 per cent., and 90 per cent. It is clear from the tables submitted by the committee that the mortality among married women is much higher than among spinsters insured on the same plan. Combining the four classes of women, the following gives the relative mortality by plan of insurance.

Four Classes of Women, all Ages at Entry and all Policy Years Combined.

Plan of Insurance.	Ratio of Actual to Expected Deaths by M.A. Table.
Ordinary life	121 per cent.
Limited payment life	100 per cent.
Endowment insurance	89 per cent.

It is shown that the proportion of endowment insurance taken by spinsters is 54 per cent., and by married women about 26 per cent., while the proportions on the ordinary life plan are 13 per cent. and 36 per cent., respectively.

Two Significant Statements.

There are two significant statements at the close of this report on this investigation:—

1. That the high mortality among married women should not be considered as a barrier to the insuring of them. It is pointed out that with great care and with the greater knowledge as favorable mortality as among men may be anticipated in the future. One company, for example, found that the married women who paid their premiums out of their own incomes and whose children were the beneficiaries under the policies had a ten per cent. better mortality than among men of corresponding age.

2. That the better mortality among spinsters than among married women should not be considered as applicable to the general population. The statistics of the committee do not prove that spinsters, as a class, are better risks than married women, but that those of the former class who were insured by the companies were better than those of the latter class who were so insured. The spinsters insured by the companies were of a very good class—generally teachers, stenographers, librarians, doctors and other similar favorable types—and were not drawn from those who had long hours, heavy work, or unsanitary surroundings.

FIRE ADJUSTERS ARRESTED.

Messrs. Myron Stern and C. Trowbridge, known as the Reliable Fire Adjusters, with offices on Scott Street, Toronto, have been arrested on a charge of theft, and are being held with bail fixed at $5,000 each. The complainant is Mr. M. Herzlich, and the amount of which he claims to have been defrauded is $900. It appears that the men adjusted a fire claim for him some time ago. The sum of $1,300 was paid to them by the insurance company. Herzlich says he received only $400, the adjusters claiming that it was all he was entitled to out of the amount paid over by the insurance company. He thought there had been misrepresentation on the part of the two accused, and after making enquiries from the insurance company had the warrants issued.

ONTARIO FIRE CHIEFS MEET.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Association of Fire Chiefs of Ontario, will be held in Kingston, on August 28-29-30. Accommodation will be provided free for exhibits of fire apparatus and fire department equipment. As the question of the formation of a Dominion Association will be discussed at these meetings, it is expected that a large number of chiefs from all parts of Canada will be present as well as others from the United States, who will be attending the International meeting at New York the following week.

The chairman of the fire and light committee of the city of Kingston, Alderman Shaw, inspector of customs, will facilitate the entry and return of exhibits from the United States. So that the necessary space may be provided, applications should be made as early as possible to Chief James Armstrong, Kingston, who will give all necessary instructions and information.

There are a great number of exhibits already registered to attend, and this convention promises to be the best and greatest of any yet held by the Association. People seem to have awakened to the great necessity of this movement and are encouraging the chiefs in their endeavors. The manufacturers and inventors of fire fighting facilities, are using the association conventions for the purposes of showing their goods, and no village, town or city in the province can afford to miss the opportunity provided hereby, in getting in touch with modern methods.

The following are the officers of the Association:—Chief F. N. Wetmore, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., president; Chief A. S. Kappelle, Cobalt, vice-president; Chief J. E. Keyes, Galt, treasurer. Board of directors.—H. B. Graham, Lake Superior Corporation, Soo; A. D. Cameron, Fort William; J. Fowler, Sudbury. Auditors.—G. M. Thomson, Owen Sound; E. D. Fletcher, Petrolia; J. Fowler, Sudbury; and Chief L. G. Finch, Guelph, secretary.

HOW THE NATIONS SHARE CANADA'S LIFE INSURANCE

Canadian life insurance companies obtained the greatest share of premiums last year. Of the total, $35,711,624, they got $23,542,189. The United States companies' share was $10,401,389 and the British companies'. $1,768,046. In the matter of new and taken-up policies, the United States companies led in 1912, their number being 243,583. Canadian companies were responsible for 205,316, and British companies for 2,522. Examining the amount of policies, new and taken up, Canadian companies were again first with $141,267,596 compared with $70,617,555 for the United States companies and $7,319,952 for the British companies.

The United States companies at the end of last year had 808,605 policies in force, as against 663,870 of the Canadian companies and 24,912 of the British companies. Of the net amount in force, our own companies have $706,661,117, the British companies $54,489,612, and the United States companies $309,114,827.

Eight Canadian and four American companies took total premiums exceeding $1,000,000 during 1912. The highest figure of a British company under this heading was $818,494.