

Two excellent things by becoming mixed are often spoilt. This is so with business schemes, as many incidents could be cited of efforts to combine two forms of business in the endeavor to secure the advantages of both, having proved futile. A scheme has been arranged, entitled "Terminable Mortgage Loans with Life Assurance," which is a mixture of life assurance and building society business. The company advances to an insured two-thirds of value of a house, the borrower and policyholder finds the balance. He then begins to pay off the debt by yearly instalments which are treated as life assurance premiums. In case of death the house is handed to the heirs free of debt. The scheme does not commend itself to us as it does to some of our British contemporaries. It is not so desirable as the old style. A policy assuring a fixed sum of money can be relied upon to bring its full face value. But a policy, by which the person insured leaves a house he has built to his heirs, may turn out to be a burden to a widow and family rather than a help. As a rule, a house so built is designed to suit the occupying builder, and proves on his death to be very unsuitable to the means of his family. They then have to occupy a residence far beyond their means, or to sell it, which, in nine times out of ten, means making a considerable sacrifice. A policy nominally to insure say \$10,000 to a widow and family under such conditions is liable to turn out only realizable for \$8,000, or less. Far better to have a policy with a fixed monetary value, without chances of depreciation or contingencies of involving undesirable expenses.

An Assessment Collapse.

THE Canadian Masonic Mutual Association, which went into liquidation about two years ago, has issued checks of \$70.67 to each of those who held policies in the Association, in full settlement of their claims. The *Amherstburg Echo* gives with this item of news a list of persons who were members of the C.M.M.A. Our valued contemporary, the *Monetary Times*, paid special attention to this Association several years ago, but its hoisting of the danger signal was unheeded by too many. The members were led on to keep up their assessment payments for a length of time, under the delusion that they were securing \$1,000 to their heirs in case of death. Payments were made far away in excess of those required to keep a policy of like amount in a regularly established assurance company. These payments kept on increasing so as to be a most cruel imposition on the more aged members, who found the charm of assessment assurance more painfully dispelled when the less able they became to meet the payments, the heavier and the more frequent they became. In 1894 the Association, then having 1,300 members, went into liquidation, the result being a distribution of \$70.67 to each policyholder, instead of the \$1,000 he was led to expect and to secure which large payments had been made. The record of the "Masonic Mutual" will prove very valuable as a warning. But, after paying in so much money, it is a very hard fate for the unfortunate policyholders to have their experience utilized as a "dreadful example."

British Farm Insurance.

FARMING insurance seems to be as unsatisfactory for the companies in Great Britain as it is here. The possibilities of the business are enormous, the hay crop alone amounts to \$300,000,000 annually, and the live stock to \$1,250,000,000, as reported by the Board of Agriculture, out of which there would seem excellent chances for doing a large business. The same tariff was in force up to June, 1894, for England, Wales and Ireland, with a separate one for Scotland, the rate for dead stock in the latter being raised to 10s.—\$2.50 per cent. owing to previous rates not being remunerative. The great trouble seems to be the ubiquitous tramp, whose fondness for using the stock yard for nightly accommodation causes the numerous fires which spoil farm insurance business. Mr. Sherwood, of the Patriotic Insurance Company, in a paper recently read by him before the Manchester Insurance Institute, suggested that the "average clause" ought to be made to apply to live stock on which farmers were greatly under-insured, as this plan would produce better results. Offices, he thought, should insist upon obtaining a share of live and dead stock, and apply the "average clause" all round, and should urge farmers to avoid stacking their produce so close together.

A Slander Case.

A GLASGOW insurance agent has had a lesson taught him on the advisability of "keeping a civil tongue in his head," which was somewhat costly. Some who are in the habit of indulging in accusatory remarks will find it profitable to take this case as a warning. One Oliver was insured in the Scottish Accident, of which Mr. Laidlaw is secretary. Oliver met with an accident, and the secretary was instructed to settle the claim. In February, 1895, while claimant was in bed recovering from the accident, the secretary entered his room and told the man he was tipsy at the time he fell, but that the company had instructed him to offer \$200 to get rid of the claim. The slander was twofold, the charge of drunkenness, and the implied one that an unfounded claim was made, both being declared with, out any basis in fact. The jury awarded the claimant \$250 damages for slander, and the company will also have to pay him the full amount provided by the accident policy. By a little tact and good temper the case could have been settled for one-fourth of what it cost owing to indiscretion.

The English Income Tax on Insurance Profits made abroad.

THE Norwich Union has contested a claim made on its head office for income tax on the interest received by the Company's branches in America, Canada, and elsewhere. That interest was never remitted to England, but was invested in the country where it accrued, the amount appearing in the Company's balance sheet. After considerable discussion by counsel, Justice Wright said the real point was this—whether, when there was a trade which could not be carried on without investments being made abroad, the interest on investments thus necessarily made abroad was part of the interest and profits made in the trade. It clearly appeared, he