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The Deadly Warfare.

Two brief months ago few of us would have believed that the Great Powers of Europe would now be engaged in active, deadly warfare. We had allowed to form itself in our minds the impression that in this twentieth century the big civilized nations had outgrown the possibility of war between themselves, that nowadays it was only in the outposts of Earth that that armed strife was likely to occur. That the leading nations should clash in bitter conflict we considered but a horrible nightmare which might present itself in dreams at times, but which would never become an actuality.

But to-day the great nations of Europe are in battle array. Teuton, Gaul, Slav and Hun have grappled in a struggle that bids fair to surpass in its horrors even the ravages of the Napoleonic compaigns. Even at the time of writing there has been an amount of slaughter enough to show mankind what a hideous butchery modern war means. When, as may be the case before this appears in print, the massed battalions of the opposing forces have crashed together in a great, decisive land battle, when the floating fortresses in the North Sea have closed in the expected Titanic encounter and strewn an ocean with wreckage and with dead, when even the heavens themselves have been the scene of the death and destruction caused by the war-lust of man, the results must be such as to make humanity stand aghast.

With half a continent and an ocean turned into one vast shambles, we are confronted with what we thought an impossibility become an actual fact. War and its horrors, its sufferings, misery and wholesale slaughter are, after all, still contingencies to be reckoned with. Death in battle or armed invasion still faces all and any of us. It is one of the hazards that threaten our lives even to-day.

Life assurance is going to mean a lot to many thousands of women and children widowed and orphaned by the present conflict. Many a man who never dreamed this war could come about has fallen or will fall by shot, shell or cold steel. Some will leave widows and children but scantily provided for by pension pittances; others, more fortunate, will know that their life assurance policies will help to fill the breach.

With the exception of the holders of the comparatively small number of policies issued in Continental Europe some years ago, those whose policies are in the Sun Life of Canada are particularly fortunate. A man who has a policy in the Sun Life may go to war without sacrificing his protection in the slightest degree. Of course policies issued during the war to men likely to

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