

A LIFE INSURANCE SCHEME.

A novel idea in the way of life insurance has just been put into practice by a Manchester boot and shoe firm. It consists in presenting to every man in their employ who can pass the necessary medical examination, a paid up life insurance policy of not less than a \$1,000 for three months. The firm called the men together, one day, at the factory and put the idea before them in such a way as to make it thoroughly understood. The majority of the men at once endorsed the firm's proposition and stated their readiness to accept it. Since then there have been policies written on about 75 employees, including salesmen and the members of the firm. Messrs. Perkins and Joyce, the firm in question, are both enthusiastic over the life insurance idea and are willing to start their employees upon it in order that the latter may perceive the benefits to be derived. When the policies expire for which the firm have paid, it is to be expected that the holders will continue them on their own responsibility. If only a portion of them should do so it would prove the excellence of the firm's idea. The probability is, however, that all or nearly all will take advantage of the start which has been given them in life insurance and keep themselves insured thereafter.

INSURE YOUR STOCK.

The *Monetary Times* says it is a curious mental trait, common to most people, that when considering the possible coming of misfortune to his acquaintances or other persons in the community, a man rarely thinks of his own possible share therein. If there be an epidemic disease prevalent, and yards or lanes be foul, one will say, "How sad if Mrs. A. should lose her child." If fires have been rife, and losses by burning are reported, a merchant will say, indignantly: "I wonder at B. carrying no insurance; he took an awful risk with his big stock, and no wonder he now makes a loss." Then we have heard very good people, sensible people, church-going people, cry out: "My, my! there is poor C., who has just broken his leg, and will not be able to do anything for six weeks, perhaps three months—and yet he carried no accident insurance, and him a man with a family. Dear, dear! it is flying in the face of Providence."

Now, in all these cases the very persons who were so ready to think of possible mishaps to other people, or to condemn their causes, leave themselves out of the calculation. They will not admit that they themselves are guilty of the very sort of negligence which they blame in other people. A man is apt to reason in this wise: "Lightning will never kill me, though it did kill Jones; my premises are never going to take fire accidentally—see how clean and neat I keep them compared with Smith; diphtheria will never get a hold of my family—I look after my drains and my kitchen sink, and burn all my refuse. I wouldn't wonder, however, but those of poor Robinson will suffer."

We should like to arouse certain persons doing business as country merchants, and they are not few, to a personal application of such reflections in the matter of fire in-

surance. There have come under our notice of late several instances of serious financial embarrassment arising from lack of insurance. One man who owes some \$12,000 and has next to no capital, carried \$2,500 insurance. Has this man no sense of moral obligation to his creditors when he takes the chances of \$2,500 paying \$12,000? Another man who has \$1,000 capital and carried a stock of \$3,000, was utterly burned out without any insurance. And now he is beggared and his creditors must suffer a loss, all because of his negligence, or of his foolish confidence that "he would never burn out."

Fire insurance is necessary in every business. A payment of premium for such protection is a legitimate item in the expenses of every merchant. The man who is too niggardly to pay for fire indemnity should go out of business. It is folly to say, "I have capital of my own, and am independent." Such a view is shortsighted. It is not the fact. No man can live to himself—though may seem disposed to try.

MERCHANTS' TAXES.

The bill proposing to change the basis of taxation for merchants from capital to net income, has unfortunately met with a colder reception in the Ontario Legislature than its friends expected, and as a result of the report of the Municipal Committee, was withdrawn. The argument that appeared to prevail most against the measure was that of J. K. Kerr, speaking for a deputation from the city Ratepayers' Association. He said that if the bill passed it would be unjust to real estate owners, and also to those who invested in municipal debentures, on the understanding that there would not be any radical change in the basis of assessment. Such a change as proposed would, he held, militate against the value of municipal securities. There appeared to be an opinion among some of the members of the committee that the bill would have too disturbing an effect upon the whole assessment law, and that this should be looked into before the bill was recommended to the House. The breadth of the general assessment question, it was felt, entitled it to a session of the legislature for its special consideration. Some members appeared to be so little acquainted with the question that they regarded it as a move in the direction of exemption. It is to be hoped that the principle of the measure will receive fairer treatment next year.—*The Canadian Grocer*.

Ten thousand acres of the Fennentrop Forest, Germany, have been destroyed by fire.

The woolen mill operatives at Prague have gone on strike, and have assumed a menacing attitude.

The United States has given the Italian Government \$15,000 for distribution among the victims of the families of the New Orleans lynching.

A meeting of wool manufacturers has been held in New York, the object being to secure from the Chicago Columbian Exposition the requisite amount of space for the display of American goods.

CLAIMS IN DISPUTE.

A special from Conconully to the *Spokane Spokesman* contains the following:—According to the conditions of the Act of 1886 throwing this country open to settlement, the land was only to be taken as homesteads or mineral claims. Some controversy having arisen between the homesteaders and miners as to ownership of land, that is good for agricultural purposes, the homesteaders are now having the land surveyed, and intend taking the case to the May term of court for a decision as to who are entitled to the ground. The farmers claim the miners are infringing by taking bottom land that contains no mineral, and the miners claim that true fissure veins traverse their locations, running across the low lands to the hills beyond. The farmers are determined to test the validity of the miners' claims by filing adverse claims. It will probably go to the secretary of the interior for a final decision, and no matter what the decision is, the case will be watched with interest by the residents of this county.

HOW TO ARRANGE GOODS FOR SALE

The best order of arrangement of collars and cuffs, in fact any boxed goods known by names or brands, is in alphabetical order, from left to right horizontally.

Classify hosiery by colors, the solids, the fancies, etc., and arrange by sizes in the alphabetical order, but graduate prices from highest at top down to lowest prices, which should be on the bottom shelf, always.

The same order should be observed in underwear and in shirts, dress or negligee.

Gloves should be classified by materials and also by colors, as far as practicable, and arranged on shelves, if kept on them, in alphabetical order as to size. If kept in show cases, regular order is hardly practicable or necessary, as the boxes are usually kept open to show colors and strengthen the effect of the ensemble.

Handkerchiefs are best kept and more effectively displayed in boxes housed in show cases. The nature of their borders, whether self or fancy colored, can be seen through the glass, and when the customer desires to acquaint himself with their texture, the boxes may be taken out for inspection and easily replaced.

The most convenient way to handle neckwear is to keep it displayed in show-cases and, if the trade is large enough to warrant it, to fill the cases with all one-priced goods regardless of shape, color, or previous condition. Of course, if it be an immense stock and includes all popular shapes, these may be classified and kept so that each showcase may present any one shape, which may be of all colors and figure designs.

Serious fires are reported from Bohemia.

The Philadelphia sugar trust has closed down the Spreckel's refinery in that city.

European steamship lines announce an advance in steerage passenger rates from Europe of \$3 a passenger.

A stock company has been organized for the purpose of introducing an invention which, it is claimed, will eventually do away with the telephone girl.