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Life Companies Loans in Manitoba. From an official return the Free Press of Winnipeg, recently gave a schedule of the mortgage loans made in Manitoba by a number of Life Companies as follows:—

	Amount of mortgage loans.	Estimated value of property.	P. c. of loan to value.
	\$	\$	
Canada Life Assurance Co.....	239,602	616,323	38 p.ct.
Confederation Life Association.	1,135,751	2,386,631	47 "
Excelsior Life Ins. Co.....	189,607	452,800	41 "
Federal Life Assurance Co.....	156,289	377,546	41 "
Great West Life Co.....	610,764	1,545,535	39 "
Home Life.....	21,600	56,064	38 "
Imperial Life.....	417,784	1,136,144	37 "
London Life.....	331,932	776,716	42 "
Manufacturers' Life.....	261,240	602,258	43 "
Mutual Life of Canada.....	608,987	1,579,044	38 "
North American Life.....	34,500	350,000	9 "
North British and Mercantile...	50,000	174,250	28 "
Sun Life of Canada.....	159,545	303,950	52 "

In every case, save one, the loans amount to less than one-half the estimated value of the property covered by the mortgages. In such fields as Manitoba and the Northwest experience has demonstrated the desirability of keeping a wide margin between the amount of a mortgage loan and the estimated value of the real estate security.

The Winter 1903-4 A Record There is every probability of the winter about passing away taking rank as one of the coldest on record in Canada. Since the second week in December, 1903, the mercury in local thermometers has been either below zero, or much nearer that point than in the average winter. In 45 days out of 70 the temperature averaged below zero. Usually what we term a "cold snap," or "cold spell," which means a temperature below 20 degrees above zero, or 12 degrees of frost, lasts three days, but, since December last, it has been almost a continuous cold snap for over ten weeks. Only for a few hours

did the temperature rise above freezing, then it suddenly plunged down some 40 to 50 degrees. The snowfalls have obstructed traffic as never before known. Towns and villages in Ontario have been wholly cut off from the outside world for several days. In order to overcome the extreme and continuous cold, furnaces and stoves have been heated to their utmost capacity, hence resulted an extraordinary number of fires.

As the normal average of the first three months of the year is about 20 degrees above zero, the ordinary average of March being 27 to 29, this month will have to be the warmest March yet recorded in Canada to bring the three months' average up to the normal.

Strange Drowning Case. In December last, in the Supreme Court Cape Colony, a case was tried that is somewhat remarkable. Two brothers went fishing, the life of the younger of whom was insured in the Union Assurance for \$15,000 and in the Law Accident for \$2,500. The elder stated that his brother was washed off a rock, disappeared in the sea and no trace was or could be found of the body. Claim made for the assurance was disputed, there being no evidence of death beyond the elder brother's word. It was proved in Court that the bodies of several persons drowned in that locality had never been recovered. The Court held that the theory of the man being alive, involved the necessity of his being hidden and supported, and was a party to a conspiracy to defraud the life assurance companies. This theory was rejected as the pecuniary benefit to be derived by the alleged conspirator was too trifling to be any serious temptation to commit such a deed, as the policies were issued for the benefit of his mother on the solicitation of the Union Assurance company's agent. The Chief Justice said: In regard to the Law Accident Insurance Company that is a somewhat different case. In that case the insurance was only for