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IN OUR LAST issue we pointed out the prevalence of the rebate practice among life insurance agents in Canada, and showed that it was harmful to both companies and agents—especially the latter. We desire to emphasize the points then made, and to repeat our most firm conviction that the evil can be cured. This desirable result may be reached by effort along two lines of action, both involving combination of forces. First to be desired is the organization of the managers and agents into an association, which shall pledge its members upon honor to give no rebates, and to compete for business only by honorable methods. This organization should then be supplemented by the passage of an anti-rebate law in order to compel the few guerrillas, who are to be found everywhere fighting in defiance of honest rules and wholesome regulations, to observe them under statutory penalties. Voluntary pledges under the guarantee of mutual association would reduce the evil to the minimum, the authority of law could be made to do the rest.

WE INVITE ATTENTION to the graphic description on another page of the workings of the existing laws in force in the Province of Quebec governing—or rather misgoverning—the matter of mortgages on real estate. These laws belong to the civilization of the middle ages, and their existence in a country boasting of forming a part of the great British Empire, whose laws are supposed to conserve vested rights and to protect the humblest individual, is a reproach to our good name and a broad sarcasm on our enterprise. By

affording opportunity for the exercise of cut-throat practices to a class of cunning knaves, who rob with impunity under the forms of law, the existing statutes become little better than a system of legalized piracy. We should be glad if we could say that "Phases of Quebec Law," above referred to, is a fancy sketch, but we assure our readers that the picture is not overdrawn. A few halfhearted attempts have been made of late years to improve matters, but nothing substantial has yet been accomplished in the way of reform.

MR. CHARLES DICKENS, the son of the famous novelist, is editor of *Household Words*, and referring recently to a point raised on children's insurance by a correspondent from Oldham says: "My correspondent's point is that while, on the one hand, the Bishop of Peterborough and the gentlemen who are at one with him in this matter complain of the frightful mortality among young children, and which they believe to be the result of the insurance system, they, at the same time, represent the insurance companies as being extremely eager to get hold of this class of business, and, indeed, as being willing to pay even excessive commissions to agents who can influence it. Now, says my Oldham friend, the interest of insurance companies lies in the continued life and not the death of the insured. Why, then, should they be so anxious for a losing business such as this must be if the Bishop of Peterborough is right? The question is certainly a poser, and I confess I do not see the answer to it." The query is really unanswerable. Insurance companies are not philanthropists, but are governed by business principles and not mere sentiment. Experience has demonstrated to them that the death rate of insured children is below, and not above, the general average, and is profitable.

AN INTERESTING CASE, involving the interpretation of the phrase "for the benefit of his widow, if any," in a life insurance policy, is before the New Orleans courts. In 1878 one Benjamin Phelon, a married man, insured his life in the New England Mutual Life, the policy in case of death being payable to his administrator "for the benefit of his widow, if any." After a time his wife died leaving several children, and Phelon