

**The Moral Hazard. Although managers and under-
Too Frequently writers generally readily agree
Forgotten.**

that the individual who is insured is quite as important as the property covered; somehow, in the urgency and pressure of competition, the former is sometimes ignored by the agent, who is more intent on the good premium attachment than the moral hazard in the case. Between the theory and the practice of guarding against moral hazard in fire insurance there is unfortunately a wide gap into which falls annually, as a dead loss, thousands of dollars of the money of companies. A risk may look exceedingly well in the report thereon, and yet be about as desirable as a powder mill. An inspector informs us that a little more heroic treatment of the moral hazard question would be timely. He says that increasing competition is adding to the difficulty of getting a perfectly honest report from agents as to the man insured as well as the property, and he advocates improving the situation by giving agents more positive instructions, accompanied by an insistence that they be obeyed to the letter.

**Life Insurance is
not an Expense.**

Three years ago, the Journal of the Canadian Bankers' Association contained an indictment against life insurance in Canada. The article was styled: "Over-insurance and under-consumption," and its principal purpose was a protest against so large an amount of life assurance being carried by the people of Canada. The writer did not hesitate to designate a life policy as being in many cases "a debt which cannot be shaken off," and an expense too heavy to be borne by the majority of those who get insured.

No great pains need be taken to correct the somewhat general but erroneous impression that life insurance is an expense. It is really nothing of the kind. It is a saving, pure and simple. People do not consider money deposited in a bank at stated periods, to draw against when needed, as an expense. The individual who puts ten dollars monthly into a building association towards paying for the house he lives in does not call it an expense, but a saving. Yet the life assurance policy represents both the bank deposit and the home paid for. Whether the assured dies suddenly or ten years after effecting his assurance, the premiums paid in all come back to his family in a lump, multiplied many times. Money in bank may be lost by extravagant or foolish use, the house being paid for may be burned, but the life policy means cash without shrinkage or discount, available at the right time to put where it will do the most good. A few cents for each working day of the year will make a comparatively young man the heir to a large sum of money, the necessary capital for a possibly successful business. It is idle to talk about the burden and expense of life assurance, when we are confronted daily with cases where a little sacrifice of the present comforts of life would have enabled selfish men to make provision for those dependent upon them.

**An Important
Matter.**

Periodically the press attempt to bring about some much needed reform in the method of inspecting the milk supplied to the people of Montreal. THE CHRONICLE has frequently referred to the numerous papers read at meetings of Insurance Institutes and Medical Societies dealing with the dangers to the health of a community arising from the use of impure and diluted milk. The city of New York is now excited by the results of enquiries into this vitally important matter. It seems that a recent investigation of the dairies that supply milk to New York city developed the startling fact that fifty per cent. of the milch cows are tuberculous. A writer in the Philadelphia "Medical Times" considers the efficient inspection of milk so important that he would have the careless dealer who brings to the unsuspecting consumer the milk of diseased or filthy animals, or milk adulterated with water, punished as a murderer. He says that milk is "the natural food of man, reaching from the cradle to the grave," and that its purity should be insisted upon. He makes the wickedness of the mere watering of milk apparent by reminding his readers that, even if the water be not positively contaminated by the usual surroundings of a dairy, "watered milk is injurious in the fact that it insufficiently nourishes the children who are dependent upon it for life."

Altogether, he confirms the opinion frequently expressed in these columns—that an efficient inspection of a city's milk supply is one of the greatest services the city government can render the public.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.—A Branch of this Bank will be opened at Seattle, Washington Territory on the 21st April. A Branch is also about to be opened at Clouseleigh, Yukon Territory. This town is near the White Horse Pass, and is the terminus of the White Horse Railway, and at the head of Lower River navigation.

A SYMPOSIUM ON THE INTEREST QUESTION.—Business men generally will be much interested in the current number of Life Echoes which contains a symposium on the "Interest Question," contributed to by such authorities as Hon. Geo. E. Foster, Sir Richard Cartwright, Hon. G. W. Ross and several prominent commercial financiers. "The Story of a Great Success" is the full report, a very satisfactory one, of one of Canada's leading Insurance Companies. The speeches delivered at the annual meeting of shareholders are interestingly reported, and evidence the thoroughness of the Company's equipment and management. A number of bright and well-illustrated articles, general and biographical in character, complete a notable number of the Canada Life's useful periodical. The Company has always carried out a policy of publicity with regard to its insurance affairs and methods—a fact which accounts largely for the general confidence in which the management and standing of the Canada Life are held.