

unavoidable stamp of meanness and inferiority. This should not be the case, but it is the fact. It is true, that in Toronto, pickles are at present manufactured, but it is extremely difficult to introduce successfully anything new upon the market. Again even one seller of them has pronounced them poor. To the firm, or individual, that will manufacture a fine article in this line, in the Dominion, a large fortune will accrue.

The crops in this region are excellent, as you have been previously advised; the heat, which for a comparatively long period was most intense has greatly moderated, and we are at present favored with fall weather, altogether liveable, loveable, refreshing, and sleep-inspiring; heavy rains have fallen, and in certain quarters, the great heat, which immediately followed these downpours, has rusted the fall grain seriously; other wise crop quotas continue unchanged.

July 25th, 1876.

ALPHA.

#### THE ROYAL CANADIAN AND BRITISH AMERICA INSURANCE CO'S.

The Royal Canadian, of Montreal, and the British America, of Toronto, Canada, have decided to put up the \$100,000 deposit each, in conformity to the demands made upon them by Insurance Commissioner Foard, after the companies had been operating in the State for over one year. This is done under a retaliatory law, Canada requiring a like sum from companies doing business in the Dominion; yet there are some weak points in our law, and as we have previously stated, do not believe the law could be enforced, yet these companies have decided to put up the \$100,000 each, rather than be annoyed with a suit. The law makes no provision for the safe keeping of the securities deposited as to Fire Companies, but it has been decided to place the securities in the hands of the State Treasurer, under the section of the law requiring Life Insurance Companies to deposit. The fact that these two are the only companies having a deposit for the protection of policyholders is one of the best advertisements they could have, and we are inclined to think that the persistent efforts made to convince Foard of this duty has redounded to the disadvantage of the parties interested, as they have compelled Foard to place the two Canadian companies in a most favourable light before the public, a position which it would have taken several years to have obtained in the ordinary course of advertising.—*Coast Review*.

#### TO PAY OR NOT TO PAY.

The premises of Joseph James & Co., manufacturers of galvanized cornices, roofers, &c., were destroyed by fire on the 29th ult. The firm held insurance with the Royal Canadian and the Citizens Insurance Companies to the amount of \$3,500 in each. Finding their business increase the firm added to the building, introducing an engine and tarring machine. On the 19th May they applied to the companies for an endorsement of this additional risk on the policies, which the companies agreed to on their paying three-quarters more, or about \$26 for each. As is customary the companies sent out receipts, after which the agent of the companies repeatedly called for payment which was deferred from day to day. Meantime the firm called upon another company to get additional insurance, including the new building and

machinery, and found they could get it much cheaper than they had been paying the other companies; when the agents called again to collect, Mr. James replied he would not pay so much, as he could get it placed cheaper. The sub-manager of the Royal Canadian had endorsed the additional risk on the policy but had omitted to properly define the tarring machine, and when it was returned for amendment the manager of the Royal Canadian refused to admit it until he made a personal inspection of the premises. On the following day the fire took place. Mr. James avers that he sent two cheques, each for \$26.78, to the Royal Canadian office, where he had been accustomed to pay for both companies, as that of the Citizens was a re-insurance, although a direct policy was issued, but that the cheque for the Royal Canadian Company was left unsigned by mistake. Both companies, however, deny that the money was ever tendered them.

The Citizens are likely to pay the claim against them, but the Royal Canadian are inclined to test its validity as far as they are concerned. The total claim amounts to somewhat more than half the insurance. The Hon. Charles Wilson had a lien upon the property and the policies were made to secure him in case of loss.

The custom on the part of many companies of sending out receipts and waiting an indefinite time for the amount of the premiums is one that should be entirely abandoned, as it is sure to lead to similar disputes.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AFFAIRS.—Our Prince Edward Island correspondent writes as follows:—Trade here is in a very languid state and business of all kinds shows great dullness; the want of confidence is more generally evident and the financial pressure more severe than at any time during last winter; this of course may not indicate a worse state of affairs but rather show that the hopes of relief from open navigation were not realized. Money is obtained with difficulty for ordinary requirements and the Banks are obliged to carry over renewals for fully three-fourths the amount of paper maturing. The action of the other Banks of the Island in the matter of the Rustico Bank is the only course that could be taken; they have consented to allow the redemption of its notes to be deferred for six months and as the midwinter period is one of comparative stagnation it is likely the postponement will be prolonged to next summer. The harvest will be the means probably of producing a reaction in trade and finance as soon as the crops can be marketed which would be about 1st Nov., but until then the weak traders will be severely tried and not unlikely some will have to go under.

The revenue of the Island for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1876, was \$296,027, as compared with \$318,203 in 1875 and \$220,072 in 1874. The collections for the past year amount to \$22,176 less than 1875 and \$75,955 more than they were in the first year of confederation—a total net increase of \$53,779 in two years. Oats, a great staple here, show an increase of shipments over 1875 while the exports of fish are diminished. France alone took nearly

500,000 bushels. The preserved lobster trade is on the increase and the British market is becoming the principal outlet for this product.

CANADA UNFAIRLY TREATED.—It is to be regretted that in so important a work as the "Encyclopædia Britannica," Canada should not be fairly treated. And that she should not be fairly treated is the more to be regretted when it is borne in mind that the fault is in no degree due to the alert and zealous publishers of the work. The article to which we refer has been supplied by Prof. Wilson, of Toronto, a gentleman who, we have no doubt, could, if he had chosen, have done much better than he has in the present case. As the matter stands, it is evident that he has fallen far short of accomplishing that brilliance seen in his article in the second volume upon pre-historic Archaeology. Certainly, he who looks to this book for any information as to the not a little eventful political history of this country, will find but a poor reward for his search when he finds that something under one page brings the reader to the Confederation Act. Whatever else historical there is occurs quite incidentally. And we think that while there is matter of history that might well have found a place in an article of the character we refer to, we also think that there have, as yet, been men who have done enough for the land of their adoption to have deserved at least some mention upon the page that describes the constitutional rise of Canada. And, yet, absurd though it may seem, almost the only man that appears in the article in connection with the public affairs of Canada is that of the Hon. George Brown; and what is still more absurd, that mention is made in connection with the abortive Washington Treaty.—*Toronto Leader*.

AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION.—The policy called for by some agitators for a duty on grain entering from United States is decidedly short sighted; we doubt if it would raise perceptibly the Canadian farmer's prices, while it would check the shipment of grain from the West by way of the St. Lawrence, and as a result the smaller demand for shipping would react on the market for Canadian products seeking orders for a foreign market, on the principle that the less the trade the higher the proportion of permanent charges.

#### FIRE RECORD.

Montreal, July 14.—The carpenter shop of J. M. Bean took fire and was burned, also the coach factory of Cusick & Co. The latter is fully covered by insurance and the former partly insured.

Edwardsburgh, Ont., July 14.—Three barns belonging to John Liddell were struck by lightning and totally consumed with all the contents; insured for \$300 in the British America Insurance Co.

Montreal, July 16.—A stable in rear of P. Rooney's residence, St. Antoine street, was burned.

Belleville, July 15.—A house on Pinnacle street, belonging to the Ridley estate, was damaged by fire to the extent of \$200; no insurance.

St. John, N.B., July 16.—Burchill's saw mill at Miramichi was burned; insured for \$5,000 in