Even as it was, I note that the mayor, in an address to His Excellency the Governor General, dwelt rather lovingly on the fact that the city's surplus was much larger than is usually the case in cities of about the same size. There are many enterprising men in Regina, however, among merchants and others, and I think I could trace in some of them a desire to have less surplus but quicker growth in the essentials of an important city. Nevertheless, the evidences of satisfactory development, at any rate at the present time are unmistakable.

Here again, it is the surrounding country which is giving its irresistible fillip to the central city. Nowhere more than in the Canadian North-West is the fact more unassailable that the grand basis of prosperity is the land—the land and the crops grown on it. The mutual eating-up of other industries apart from that solid foundation of old Terra—the soil—is merely a question of time, even if they should gain so much of a start without it as a mere existence. Regina has the soil; it is surrounded with almost innumerable acres of some of the richest in the world. And thousands of these acres are even now being divested of millions of bushels of the wheat which spells prosperity. The result is not difficult to foresee. A country which can boast of individual farmers receiving six, eight, or nine thousand dollars for one crop of grain, as can be truthfully stated here, is a country whose central points are simply bound to "get on." *Vivat Regina.* F. P. W.

Regina, Saskatchewan, September 10th, 1905.

DISHONEST SMARTNESS.

Since the days of Benjamin Franklin, and possibly before, "the best on the outside" has been a time-mentioned, if not time-honored, phrase used with respect to the packing of fruit as well as some other kinds of merchandise. It was not honest, it was never popular, but it was common. A century has passed since Franklin's day, and we find human nature not different. People will still try to gammon other people by putting "the best on the outside." The action of Mr. J. W. Woods, of Toronto, in bringing fruit which was fraudulently packed to the attention of the Board of Trade this week, and through that body, we hope, to the proper authorities, for purposes of prosecution, is one to be commended by all who value the continuance of Canada's good name in trade matters. Mr. Woods, or members of his family, bought two baskets of apples at a Yonge Street store. On the outside these appeared to be fine, luscious apples of the Duchess variety, but underneath were shrivelled Greening windfalls. This sort of rascality is enough to incense any man with honest instincts. Mr. Woods says that while recently in England he came across several examples of the way in which the good reputation of Canada was being impaired by similar fraudulent devices. It is to be hoped that an example will be made under the Fruit Marks Act of the perpetrator of the above outrage.

A SATISFACTORY EXAMINATION.

The reputation in life assurance circles of the United States of Mr. J. V. Barry, commissioner of insurance for the state of Michigan, is that of a capable and honest business man with a clear mind. It should, therefore, be satisfactory to the friends and well-wishers of the Canada Life Assurance Company that after the full examination by his deputy and an examiner into the affairs of the company, which its president invited, the report of the Michigan Department is favorable in every respect.

Mr. Barry had instructed those whom he sent here to look into the Canada Life's affairs to be thorough and exhaustive in their investigation. We have read the report signed by Mr. Hadley, the deputy, and Mr. Rowland, the examiner. These men have no fault to find with the condition of the company's affairs, after looking over its books and assets for several weeks both at head office and in Winnipeg, and having independent valuations made of its office premises in the cities. But they compliment the company highly on its book-keeping and its business-like method of arrangement. They find its investments and loans regular, its policy reserves ample, and, a favorable point, "no agents' balances or advances to agents taken into account as an asset in any way, directly or indirectly, by the company."

Furthermore, and this is important at the moment, the report goes on to say: "The discussion at present prevailing in life insurance circles as to unprofitable or improper alliances of life insurance companies with other financial institutions, as well as your letter mentioned above, led your examiners to make a most careful scrutiny into the relations and business connections of the Canada Life with other financial corporations. As a result of this investigation it may be said with no hesitation that the Canada Life Assurance Company has no improper or unprofitable financial relations or alliances with any other institution, and all its affairs seem to be conducted on a purely business basis."

We have never doubted that the Canada Life was a sound and well-conducted company; but it must be agreeable to Canadians to find their largest life company, which does business over a large part of this continent, as well as in Great Britain, praised so highly by a respectable foreign authority.

BANKING AND FINANCIAL.

It is intended to hold the annual meeting of the American Bankers' Association in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, October 11th, 12th, and 13th. This will be its thirty-first annual convention.

There is excuse for the alarm now being manifested in Great Britain over the rapid growth of municipal taxation, says the Montreal Gazette. "In London the man who pays $200 a year rent pays $120 in rates, or close upon three times as much as a Montrealer, who considers himself highly taxed, is asked to pay. The truth of the matter is that Montreal is one of the most lightly taxed of cities."

We have been told of a presentation made by citizens of Collingwood to Mr. Brydon, for sometime manager of the Canadaian Bank of Commerce at that place, on the occasion of his leaving. They presented to him a cabinet of silver and to Mrs. Brydon a collection of cut glass. The donors were generous in marking their appreciation of Mr. Brydon, for the testimonial was one of unusual beauty. That gentleman is now in charge of the Canadian Bank of Commerce branch, at the corner of Yonge and Bloor Streets in Toronto.

The volume of business, as indicated by the returns from the bank clearing houses, is keeping up well. The bank clearings as compiled by Bradstreet's for the week ending September 14, shows an increase at every one of eighteen clearing houses in the United States and Canada as compared with the corresponding week last year:—

New York	$1,600,452,663	Inc. 19.9
Chicago	201,658,300	Inc. 16.6
Boston	142,694,884	Inc. 22.4
Philadelphia	121,237,306	Inc. 7.6
St. Louis	54,371,341	Inc. 20.4
Pittsburg	46,667,333	Inc. 24.4
San Francisco	38,831,811	Inc. 29.7
Montreal	25,283,382	Inc. 22.8
Toronto	20,815,447	Inc. 27.9
Winnipeg	6,390,144	Inc. 34.8
Ottawa	2,533,849	Inc. 24.7
Halifax	1,953,152	Inc. 4.7
Vancouver, B.C.	1,905,376	Inc. 20.8
Quebec	1,665,830	Inc. 9.2
Hamilton	1,293,659	Inc. 12.7
St. John	1,114,202	Inc. 2.7
London, Ont.	913,019	Inc. 5.1
Victoria, B.C.	994,640	Inc. 36.9