

ANOTHER KLONDYKE ESTIMATE.—Sir James Grant's statement at a recent dinner in London, that the output of gold for the season would be \$40,000,000, is thus contradicted by the London *Shareholder*:—"We have always been somewhat loath to accept the 'tall' statements made with regard to the Klondyke output of gold. Our attitude now proves to be correct, for instead of \$50,000,000 and upwards, representing the value of the gold sent down, about \$10,000,000 appears to be nearer the mark. It is extremely hard to get the exact figures, but a reliable correspondent in Vancouver, British Columbia, writes that "about \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 worth have been brought down to St. Michaels and smaller shipments are on the way. With the quantities brought away privately by individuals, I should very much doubt if the total reaches \$10,000,000. The wild stories of the mineral wealth of the Yukon district are very much exaggerated. Certainly there are one or two places very well sprinkled with the yellow metal, but for every one that strikes such a spot hundreds search in vain."

### PERSONALS.

MR. F. WOLFERSTAN THOMAS, General-Manager of Molsons' Bank, sailed from Liverpool, a few days ago, on his homeward journey.

MR. A. McDUGALD, General-Manager for Canada of the British Empire Mutual Life Assurance Company, arrived in Montreal yesterday. Mr. McDougald was a passenger by the "SS. Lake Ontario."

MR. G. HUTTON BALFOUR, Superintendent of the Standard Life Assurance Company, has just returned from a ten-days tour among the agencies of the Standard, in the Maritime Provinces.

A PROMINENT visitor to Montreal, at the present time, is Mr. William B. Paterson, Asst.-Actuary of the Norwich Union Life Office, of Norwich, England, who will remain in Canada until the close of next week. The Norwich Union occupies a very high position in the insurance and financial world, and is one of the oldest offices in existence.

## Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by Correspondent

### TORONTO LETTER.

The Splendid Results of the Toronto Exhibition.—The New Westminster Fire, and the Desire for Details.—Two Boys to Replace the Lost "Maine." Contrasting Passages from the Foresters' Report at the late Gathering.—Desire for Removal of the Remainder of the Conflagration Extra in Toronto.

Dear Sir.—Our Great Fair is over, and is reported to have been the most successful one yet held, both as regards the number of visitors and the cash receipts. We are told that the net profits will reach \$25,000, which you will admit is a tidy sum of money to amass from this kind of diversion. The exhibits from the farm and the factory, always good, were es-

pecially excellent this year, and many novelties in the mechanical line were here introduced to the public, for the first time. The spectacular and other fancy features, not forgetting the fireworks, were all an improvement on former doings. Even a prisoner in the jail, shut off from all save sight and sound, might infer from the louder bang, and more ecstatic and frequent rush of the fire rockets that the Fair Management felt happy and was disposed to be generous in the matter of fireworks. And these last are so dear to the visitors from the back townships—at once the delight of the hired man and his healthy best girl, who on Farmers' Day are most in evidence. It is certain the interest in the Exhibition is unflagging. Yearly the people come and go away pleased. Already it is rumoured that more building accommodation is to be provided against next season. As to weather, for a two weeks term it was most satisfactory—one half day we had a pourdown, with the result that the people did not go to the Fair in the morning, staying in the city and descending at the dinner hour upon the dining rooms and refreshment saloons like a swarm of locusts, ate up everything eatable whether green or otherwise. All of which was a golden time for the caterers.

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The Methodist Church Conference being held here during the Fair, added largely to our floating population, and altogether Toronto has reaped a harvest of dollars from the many visitors. The great Li-Hung-Chang, who two years ago constituted a great feature and a drawing card of that Fair day, has I see fallen from the favor of his Chinese Master, and has been dismissed from power. He, too, was doing a *rushing* business.

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The news of the great fire at New Westminster, B.C., Saturday night last, comes to try the temper and metal of our insurance managers. It is no doubt a large conflagration, and details of the disaster are eagerly looked for; and especially an explanation of how, in a water works town, with a good fire fighting equipment, it was possible that so large an area should have been burned over.

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What do you think of the scheme lately announced in which two boys of Cincinnati have undertaken, and are now travelling through the United States, collecting money to replace the lost "Maine" with a new battleship? Willie and Harry have so far collected \$35,000. Holding the autograph letter of President McKinley commending and endorsing their undertaking, I suppose they will eventually succeed, and attain the goal of a novel ambition. I do not know what the cost of a battleship is, but I suppose about half a million dollars or so. The age we live in is prolific of surprises of one kind and another.

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Newspaper comment has been made upon some items in the recent Report of the "Foresters'" meeting held in Toronto. One of "my Exchanges" says, quoting from the Report as printed, that as a consequence of "the righteous war," "the last vestige of "tyrannical government has vanished from the Western hemisphere before the sunlight of American devotion to justice and equality," and that "the doctrine of equal rights to all prevails where once all "was despotism and misery." This is nice reading though "writ large." In a subsequent clause of the Report the committee earnestly recommend that in