

## Correspondence.

## FIRE INSURANCE IN THE EAST.

Editor MONETARY TIMES:

SIR.—Your remarks under the heading "Fire Insurance in the East," in your issue of 9th inst., while seeking to show the justice of the increase in fire rates in Woodstock and other New Brunswick towns, really emphasize the injustice of such increase. It is true that the towns mentioned, viz., Shediac, Gibson, St. Mary's, Canterbury, Buickville, Apohaqui, Fairville and Centreville suffered severely by fire in 1893; but these towns, which as a matter of fact, are only villages, have practically no water supply nor any adequate appliances for fighting fire. Is it just that Woodstock, Fredericton, Moncton and St. Stephen, which have fire appliances second to none in Canada, comparatively speaking, be forced to make good to the companies the deficit which they have to face by reason of the losses in these villages?

Prior to the introduction of the very excellent system of waterworks which this town now has, Woodstock suffered in the same manner as these villages have done. But for the last ten years (the water system was laid in 1883) the insurance companies have a handsome surplus on their Woodstock business. This fact cannot be gainsaid. Where then, we ask you, is the justice of an increase in rates for Woodstock? Rather should there not be a decrease?

Yours truly,

GEORGE E. BALMAIN.

Woodstock, N.B., Feb. 17th, 1894.

—Fifteen hundred tons of rails have been shipped from England for the Hamilton, Grimsby and Beamsville Electric Railway Company.

—The business men in Regina, N.W.T., have signed a petition agreeing to close their respective places of business at the hour of six o'clock p.m., from February 15th to October 31st inclusive, Saturdays and the days before holidays excepted.

—The living wage question has been exercising the ingenuity of epigrammatists. The following epigram signed I. R. B., was recently published in the London Times:—

What is "a living wage?"  
"I cannot tell you," quoth the sage,  
"Unless it be  
"Sufficiency  
"For him—but not for you or me."

—At the annual meeting of the Ottawa River Navigation Co. the business of the past season was found to have been fairly satisfactory, and it was decided to declare a small dividend out of profits. The old board of directors was re-elected, viz.: R. W. Shepherd, president; J. I. Gibb, vice-president; G. W. Simpson, R. W. Shepherd, R. Bolton, directors; R. W. Shepherd, manager and secretary; Edward Scott, auditor.

—It is evident that the red cedar shingle of British Columbia is steadily gaining in popularity in this market, and on the better class of building here will have the preference over white pine, because they last much longer. In the North-West provinces it has already superseded the latter. The Pacific Coast Lumber Co., whose headquarters is at New Westminster, enjoys the credit of turning out a superior shingle sawn edge grain.

## THE ADVERTISER

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DIRECTOR, Monetary Times.

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BONA FIDES, Monetary Times.

—A deputation of Winnipeg merchants have waited on the Manitoba Government and asked that an act be passed compelling all retail establishments to be closed at 7 p.m.

—According to the Registrar General's reports, there are said to be more than 85,000 family names in the United Kingdom. And among the oldest of them all is the surname Hatt. According to authentic records, there were Hatts before William the Norman set foot in England. Rev. Mark Anthony Lower found a document in the Cottonian manuscript, which ante-dated the Battle of Hastings, several references to various members of this family. Struck with the frequent recurrence of the same second name, Mr. Lower thoroughly investigated the matter and came to the conclusion that the name of Hatt was really the oldest hereditary surname that had come down to the present day.

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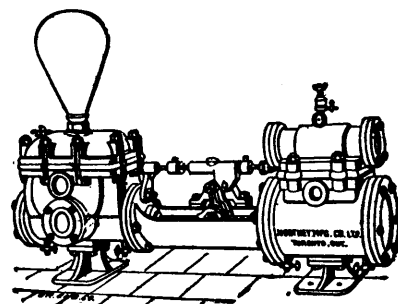
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