

It was further ordered that this resolution be inscribed on the minutes of the Board and a copy thereof be forwarded to his sorrowing wife and relatives, to whom they desire to offer their deepest sympathy and condolences in their affliction.

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The war in South Africa has long since become wearisome from its monotony. Capturing, or dispersing gangs of what the Hon. Mr. Balfour, in a recent speech, called "bandits," is not war, it is police work on a larger scale than usual. The capture of Kritzing, one of the chiefs of these marauders, is important, as he had shown signs of military talent a little higher than the skill to sneak away. Any reader of Lord Roberts' work on India, will be convinced that the Boers are not nearly as plucky as the Afghans, or men of the hill tribes that General had to punish and keep in order. The end of the trouble will not be long delayed in the judgment of many who are in a position to judge. The Canadians who are leaving for South Africa in January are therefore likely to be "in at the death." They will be on hand to take their share in the appointments that will be made for maintaining the peace in the two subdued districts, or, if they so prefer, they will find wide opportunities for trading when the land is pacified. Canada's brilliant record in South Africa will be one of the highest pages in the history of the war, and her success in the field of commerce will, we trust, be equally marked.

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Sir Wilfrid Laurier repeated at Toronto, on 17th inst., that "no more deputations would be sent to Washington" in regard to tariff matters. He had become convinced that the policy of the United States was such as to offer no more favourable opportunities for Canadian goods entering the American market. The premier said: "Canada could produce all that the United States could produce," which, however true in the main, has limitations. Canada cannot, for instance, grow oranges, or high grade tobacco, or cotton. He had hopes of Canada being as large a wheat producer as the States in 15 years, and the Canadian steel industry promised to rival that of her neighbour. Canada, said Sir Wilfrid, "was willing to exchange her goods for those of the countries with which she traded, and in the long run Canada would displace the United States in the British market."

It is inspiring to hear such hopeful words from the Premier, who evidently had a patriotic tonic administered by his experience on the Joint High Commission, of futile memory.

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Until confirmed, it will be wise to avoid jubilating over Marconi's alleged reception at St. John's, Newfoundland, of aerial messages sent from England. This doubtless, if true, is the marvel of marvels. But of the commercial value of wireless telegraphy, there is ground for serious doubts. So there was, it may be

replied, of the value of steam navigation, which was proved impassible by one scientist, and later of cable telegraphy. On the whole, perhaps suspense of judgment is the wiser attitude. How aerial messages are to avoid getting mixed in transit; how they are to be identified; how prevented reaching the wrong station; how their certainty of being read at the right place and right time can be secured are problems, however, which present difficulties that excite scepticism.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by correspondents

TORONTO LETTER.

A Pleasing Appointment—Re. Toronto Exhibition Buildings—Illuminations in Show Windows Undesirable—Electrical Signs—Largely a Matter of Digestion—Company Changes—Prospects—Good Wishes.

DEAR EDITOR,—The appointment of the Home Fire Insurance Co., of New York, of our fellow-workers in the City Fire Insurance field, Messrs. Wood and Kirkpatrick, has given satisfaction to their many friends and well-wishers. Mr. Thomas Wood now ranks among the veterans of this fire insurance community, having been all his life in the business. His earlier years spent in Montreal, and ever since he has resided in Toronto, representing the *Ætna* Fire of Hartford. Mr. Kirkpatrick has been associated with Mr. Wood for several years, and, having graduated with all honors, after valuable services rendered on important committees, and on the Toronto Board of Fire Underwriters, of which he has been president, is, therefore, well qualified to justify the Home in appointing him their special agent in Canada. The Phoenix of Brooklyn is also represented by Messrs Wood and Kirkpatrick.

I learn that the City Authorities have fallen in with the recent request of the Insurance Companies carrying the civic properties, to re-adjust the insurances on the Exhibition Buildings to harmonize with values as recently appraised by Mr. Power for the Companies. It has taken a long time and much pushing to get the Exhibition insurances into shape as regards rates and distribution of the insurance, but Mr. Secretary McCuaig expects to get matters so adjusted at an early day that the Companies interested may have a reasonable chance of a fair remuneration for the protection they give; something not hitherto secured by them with reference to these wooden hazards exposed as they are to every wind that blows. This is in accordance with the determination of the Companies, taken this year, that all over the land fire rates must be adjusted and regulated so as to afford a prospect of fair profit.

Some grumbling has arisen among the larger of our city shops because the Toronto Board refuses to sanction the illumination of large shows windows (little rooms as they almost are, filled with miscellaneous holiday goods) by using many electric lights in the midst, because it is proposed to use in the lighting arrangements what is known as "temporary work," i.e., wiring, etc., of a temporary and flimsy, cheap character, and, therefore, considered dangerous. The chance of a wire being exposed or even broken by some carelessness in frequent redressing of these large windows is not remote, and results might be disastrous.

We are promised something novel and effective in the way of what are called electrical signs. There are to form part of some large glass erection or arrangement, and the display of what is advertised is to be both pretty and so public and prominent that advertisers are promised full value for their money.