

# The Chronicle

Insurance & Finance.

R. WILSON SMITH,  
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## The Trade Rank of the Empire.

Trade statistics published by a German official state the world's import and export trade as \$23,800,000,000 of which \$7,000,000,000, or nearly one third, is done by Great Britain and the colonies, \$2,618,000,000 by Germany and \$2,118,200,000 by the United States. The foreign trade of the British Empire is greater than the aggregate of the three greatest nations in the world, outside Great Britain.

## Agent Liable for Neglect.

A decision was given on the 15th inst. by Justice Lount, Toronto, illustrating the liability of an agent for neglect in conducting the business of his principal. Messrs. Banter & Galloway, of Burlington, Ontario, deputed Mr. Seneca Jones, of Hamilton, to place insurance on their flour mill property. He added \$500 to the existing insurance without advising the companies. This invalidated the policies with the result that the insured firm lost \$1,000. This loss having been directly caused by his neglect they sued Mr. Jones for the amount and secured a judgment against him.

## Legal Status of a Posthumous Child.

The Trust and Guarantee Company of Toronto being guardian of the estate of a Mr. Lethbridge, deceased, who left four children, applied to the Court of Chancery, Toronto, for advice as to whether one of the children who was born after the death of its father legally inherited a share in the proceeds of an insurance policy with the other children. It is hardly necessary to say that the Court declared that the posthumous child held the same legal status that it would have enjoyed had it been born in its father's life-time. Any other decision would have been a violation of nature and contrary to all usages and

precedents, with one material exception based on a physiological law, which, naturally, de-legitimizes a posthumous child. The action of the Trust and Guarantee Company, however, illustrate the care taken by these companies to protect the interests of those interested in the estates in their charge.

## Special Report on North West Crops.

The manager of a branch in this city of one of the largest banks in Canada has favoured us with a report furnished him by a friend on the condition of the crops throughout Manitoba and the Northwest Territories based upon his personal observations and information gathered during a trip extending about 9,000 miles throughout the West. He writes as follows:

"The crops are indeed looking magnificent, and the feeling now is that the danger of frost is past. The heads of wheat are simply marvelous, particularly in the Edmonton district, but all through Manitoba this year wheat has six rows as against four last year, and the weather we are now having is filling out the heads in splendid shape. With continued good luck the feeling is becoming general that the total yield this year of wheat will be nearer 75,000,000 bushels than 55,000,000 last year."

## Electricians and Fire-Proof Wood.

The Scientific American of recent date has an article pointing out the special danger of electric cars, more especially those on elevated roads, and we may add of these cars when passing over high bridges. These cars are liable to fire from a burnt out fuse or short circuiting. On an ordinary street car the danger is slight as passengers can quickly dismount with ease, but, were an electric car to take fire on an elevated bridge or in a tunnel the passengers would