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A Token of Prosperity. "Now prosperity begins to mellow." —Shakespeare.

It is pleasing to note such a carefully edited paper as *The Financial News* (Eng.), in its issue of 21st ult., referring to the figures of the farm land sales of the Canadian North-West Land Company as "not the least among the recent tokens of Canadian prosperity," and also publishing the figures of the June return of the company, as evidence of an improvement at the rate of 140 per cent. in area and value. As we have already stated, the number of acres sold in June last was 10,798 against 4,449 in the corresponding month of the previous year, 1897. The total figures for the half year ended June 30th, shows an increase in acres sold of 22,858, and an increment in cash of \$122,362.

The Financial News is quite right in regarding such facts and figures as betokening Canadian prosperity, and, if this prosperity begins to mellow, and assume permanence, it is largely owing to the magnificent farm lands of the Dominion, which must always prove a source of contentment and prosperity to her people so long as there is a happy union between the fertility of nature and the industry of man.

It is to be hoped that, at the approaching Paris Exhibition, a strong effort will be made by our rulers to show to the wide, wide world the tokens of what this English financial paper is pleased to call Canadian prosperity.

Of Interest to Bankers. Late Melbourne papers refer to the success of the system introduced by the banks in West Australia of making a charge to customers keeping small current accounts, the charges being (1) on the opening of an account, 10s. 6d., and (2) if the balance at credit falls below £50 for three consecutive days in any half-year, 10s. 6d. The system has since been introduced into New Zealand in a slightly modified form, no charge being made for opening an account. That such a charge is perfectly just and proper will not be denied by any one who realizes how much time, trouble and stationery

is given by banks to those keeping small current accounts, and if the system introduced in Australia and New Zealand is adopted by Canadian banks no sensible customer will complain thereof. Some of our banks are said to make a small charge in similar cases, and there is no reason why the practice of charging for services rendered should not be as universal as the penny post for Britain and her colonies promises to become.

A Lively Meeting.

If the published reports of last week's meeting of the companies belonging to the plate-glass insurance compact in New York are correct, the underwriters engaged in this business must be most lively and interesting gentlemen. Among those present at the office of the Lloyds Plate-Glass Insurance Company, where the meeting was held, were the President and Vice-President of two companies upon whom the arguments to be advanced at the conference were expected to create a desire to join the association. Instead of strengthening the union, the meeting is said to have "developed more personalities than any ever before held in the history of plate-glass insurance," the members giving a free rein to their tongues in exchanging opinions of each other. It seems to have been the same old story of violated agreements and broken compacts, and, in place of obtaining new recruits for the association, the chairman, President of the Fidelity and Casualty Company, gave notice of the intention of his company to withdraw from the compact. The heated arguments of those present at this meeting may have been owing in some degree to the sultry weather; but, unless the language used and the notices given have been withdrawn, there will be "wide open plate-glass insurance rates all over the country." However, the breaking of the plate-glass compact was atoned for by a very harmonious meeting of the Suburban Underwriters' Association, held in Gotham, on the same day, at which it was unanimously agreed to maintain the association in full force, and the sentiments expressed were those of perfect amity and concord.