

TORONTO AND EXHIBITIONS.

The enviable reputation earned by the city of Toronto for its annual exhibition is being enhanced year by year, and serious attention is already being given to the proposed "World's Fair," in the same city, in 1901. The *Canadian Gazette* of the 25th ult. says:—

"Is it practicable for Toronto to herald the twentieth century by organising a "World's Fair" for the summer of 1901? This is the problem which the *Globe* of that city has raised, and which is being discussed by press and citizens alike with some interest. It can hardly be said that public opinion is unanimous on the point. On the one hand, we are told that international exhibitions never "pay," and are nowadays little better than "chestnuts." On the other, it is argued that nothing but benefit can come or has come from well-planned and wisely-managed enterprise on these lines. Toronto, as the *Globe* indeed recognises, would show prudence, in not attempting to outrival some efforts of the kind elsewhere either in the scale of its proposals or in the length of the time during which it would propose to keep its "World's Fair" open. But granting this, there is much to be said for the plea that in its position, its population and its past record in connection with its industrial exhibition, the city can point to many considerations in favour of a proposal which might form an admirable stroke of enterprise. It must, however, be heartily backed up by Torontonians themselves if support is to be secured from other quarters."

If Toronto decides to risk a splendid record by holding an international exhibition, we venture to predict it will be so "well-planned and wisely-managed" that all the world will wonder thereat. But the first "World's Fair" held in Canada will probably be in its metropolis.

THE INSURANCE
and FINANCE

Chronicle

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AT 151 ST. JAMES ST., MONTREAL.

R. WILSON SMITH, Proprietor.

Prices for Advertisements on application

TRULY RURAL.—Village fire engines are generally antiquated, says the *Birmingham Daily Mail*, but one parish in Warwickshire can beat the record. The other evening a farmer found one of his ricks on fire, and remembering that there was a manual engine at a village three miles away—I will not give our bucolic friends away by naming it—he despatched two of his servants to summon aid. On the way they met the local baker with his cart, and pressed him into the service, he riding on ahead. When he came to the village in question, he found the engine house, a rather dilapidated shed, but it was locked. He enquired at a neighbouring cottage for the key. "Oh," was the reply, "old John Smith used to keep the key, but he's been dead this sixteen years." This was comforting, but it was suggested that John's son, the village sexton, might have the open sesame, so he was sought at the other end of the village. Yes, he remembered that there was a key—wonderful unanimity about it—but he could not rightly say where it was. He believed it was behind the door of the vicarage coach-house, and there, after another search, it was found. Hurrying to the shed the baker found lock and key so rusty that much time was expended in getting the door open. When at last the engine was reached the spokes of the wheels proved to be worm-eaten all through, the hose had been a feeding place for mice, the frame was thick with the dust of years, and covered with cobwebs, the thing being quite useless. It was ascertained after that there had not been a fire in the village for eighty years, thus accounting for the Rip Van Winkle engine. Alterations and repairs are now in progress.

DEBENTURES

CITY OF STRATFORD

SEALED Tenders will be received by the undersigned till noon on Friday the 16th day of September, 1898, for Debentures to the amount of \$50,000, bearing date the 1st day of October, 1898, and payable in twenty years after the date thereof. Said Debentures bear interest at 3½ per cent per annum payable half yearly on the 1st day of January and July in each year at Treasurer's office. Debentures will be deliverable at the Bank of Montreal, Stratford. The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

W. LAWRENCE,

City Treas.

September, 3rd, 1898.

FEDERAL LIFE

Assurance Company

Head Office, - - - Hamilton, Canada.

Capital and Assets	\$1,331,448.27
Premium Income, 1897	360,713.94
Dividends to Policyholders	39,246.47

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