

MR. D. LAURIE of London, Eng., general manager of the Fire Insurance Association (now the Albion), spent some days in Montreal recently, and attended the general meeting of the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association on May 17th. Mr. Laurie goes to Vancouver, and will take in the World's Fair before returning to Montreal. He paid the CHRONICLE a pleasant call.

WE ARE INDENTED to our fellow-toiler in the vineyard of commercial journalism—Mr. M. S. Foley, proprietor of the *Journal of Commerce*,—for cards announcing the marriage on the 29th ultimo, of his daughter Bertha, to Mr. Louis Lacoste, son of Sir Alexander Lacoste, of this city. We don't know how it feels to be "giving away" a daughter, but all the same we congratulate our confrère on having gained a son, and heartily extend to the young couple our best wishes for their future happiness.

The law firm of MCCARTHY, OSTER, HOSKIN & CREELMAN, of Toronto, has taken into partnership Mr. LEIGHTON G. MCCARTHY, a nephew of the senior member of the firm, Mr. Dalton McCarthy. We congratulate the junior member upon his good fortune in making such a connection in his professional work. The firm has removed from the offices in Temple Chambers which they have occupied since April of 1877, and now occupy elegant quarters on the third floor and part of the sixth floor of the new Freehold Buildings on the corner of Victoria and Adelaide streets, Toronto.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by Correspondents.

SIDE GLANCES OF THE WORLD'S FAIR.

Editor INSURANCE AND FINANCE CHRONICLE:—

Now that the World's Columbian Exposition is in the tide of successful operation, a word as to the extent to which actual performance has followed the great promises which have been so lavishly made may be of interest to your readers. To say that the great Exhibition is fully equal to the general expectation of the discriminating public and the promises of the directory is high praise, but a gratifying fact which it gives us pleasure to record. The conviction has evidently been strong in the minds of the commissioners responsible for the management of the Exposition, that it ought, in the nature of things, to be on a grander scale and better every way than any preceding World's Fair, excellent as each one has been. To present a vivid object-lesson of the world's progress in the various important industries and inventions, and to show how rapid and thorough have been the developments achieved in this last decade of the nineteenth century in science and art and to illustrate the march of the world toward a higher and better form of civilization, have been evidently kept steadily in view and to a reasonable extent accomplished, as indeed it ought to have been, with the wealth of material available.

Space will not admit of any detailed description of the architectural or topographical plan of the buildings and grounds covering over 600 acres, with much of which the reader has already become familiar; but in general terms, now that the plans are completed and everything in due order, we may in simple justice pause to say that each building and each feature of the grounds, complete in itself and a triumph of modern art, has been so managed as to make up one harmonious whole, with the uniform result that the beholder spontaneously signifies his impressions of that whole by the single word "grand." And just here we desire to say most emphatically that the finished Exposition is world-wide in its scope, and not, as was apprehended by not a few, a gigantic Chicago enterprise or even a United States show. It is gratifying to note that the cordial invitation extended to all the nations, great and small, has been responded to in a remarkable degree, and that the forest of diversified flags floating over the ample grounds represent *bona fide* exhibits on

a liberal scale. Little Finland vies with Great Britain, and far away Dahomey shows her crude civilization in close conjunction with Imperial France and sunny Italy. Great Britain occupies a large space in a most conspicuous position in the great Manufactures Building, and, we need scarcely say, occupies it well, while in Machinery Hall her exhibit is pointed to with just pride by every genuine Briton. The Irish village, which Lady Aberdeen has inaugurated with such rare good taste and real skill, is one of the most striking features of the Fair, and is a universal attraction; while all the British Colonies are well represented by just those things which best indicate their special characteristics and show the scope of their progress. We confess to a good degree of agreeable surprise to find that Canada has succeeded in occupying so large a share of space in the various department exhibits, and stands out so prominently among the countries of greater age and resources. It is with great pleasure that we state the fact acknowledged on all hands, that the Dominion really has one of the most creditable exhibits on the grounds. One of the first to have every thing in place, she has succeeded in representing her varied industries and resources, from the mines and forests of British Columbia to the fruits of Ontario and the manufactures of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, in a thoroughly comprehensive manner, and has revealed a breadth of enterprise which will be to her a lasting benefit and a source of satisfaction to all her people who are so fortunate as to visit the Exposition.

It will be generally remembered by the CHRONICLE readers that a most diligent effort was made last year, by a committee authorized by the commissioners, to raise funds among the various insurance companies for the erection on the grounds of a building, to be used as headquarters for visiting insurance men and for the exhibition of the safest methods of building construction, fire prevention devices, fire extinguishing appliances, and for the furtherance of insurance interests generally. A considerable sum was pledged conditionally, but owing to the short-sighted apathy—to call it by no harsher name—of a half-dozen leading companies the project had to be abandoned. Now all the insurance men whom I have met are emphatic in their expressions of regret that one of the most important interests of our modern civilization is without representation, where such a rare opportunity was afforded for educating the public and promoting the interests of the business. Something will be done in the *talking* line, and some statistical information disseminated at a section of the World's Congress later on, where insurance has a representation; but this will at best be an obscure and very unsatisfactory arrangement, not at all commensurate with the interests of a business scarcely second in importance to any and all other interests affecting the public welfare. Something has been done on independent lines by the life insurance companies, acting through the local Life Insurance Club, by fitting up commodious quarters in the Masonic Temple Building down town, where all life insurance men are cordially invited to meet socially and for the comparison of notes and the general promotion of the interests of the business, which is good so far as it goes, but an arrangement which falls far short of what ought to have been and might have been made if the original plan had been carried out.

Of the fire-extinguishing service perfected for the protection of buildings and exhibits, we hear only words of commendation from insurance men, and the tests which have been made of its efficiency have amply demonstrated that it is fully equal to any emergency which is likely to arise. A system of careful watchfulness has been inaugurated, plenty of fire engines placed in service, an elaborate fire alarm system installed, a powerful fire-boat placed in the lagoon, and an abundant water supply provided. Altogether, it would seem that no fears need be entertained of the ability of the Exposition fire department to prevent any extensive loss from fire.

Ever yours,
A. H. H.

CHICAGO, May 26, 1893.