on either side, if speeches are to be accepted, a sincere advocate of Australian Federation. Enemies are never so dangerous as when they come in the guise of friends, and I am not particularly sanguine of speedy federation yet.

A word as to cable matters. At a recent meeting of the Premiers of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, each agreed to take for his colony one-ninth of the responsibility of a Pacific cable. New Zealand has agreed to take another ninth share. This is conditional upon Great Britain taking three-ninths, and Canada the remaining two-ninths. This is the first definite offer that has been made. It is now for the parties at the other end to speak. F. W.

Sydney, N. S. W., 29th August, 1898.

NEW WESTMINSTER RECOVERING.

The future of New Westminster, how it will be affected by the great fire that swept so much of it out of existence, is a subject of moment. The destruction of 500 buildings, the value of which was probably over $2,000,000, is a stunning blow to any place; and the disaster has given rise to speculations as to whether the beautiful place would recover from the blow—whether it had not already been overbuilt—whether there is sufficient country tributary to it to make it a large city—whether it had to-day any strong supporting feature besides the important salmon-canning industry.

We find the general subject discussed in some correspondence of last Monday's Winnipeg Commercial. It is there stated that Westminster had built ahead of herself, and "with few exceptions six blocks of stone and brick buildings in the business heart of the city, it was an open secret, were white elephants to their owners. The buildings which will take their place will be more suitable and the fire in this instance will be an ultimate benefit.'" We have some reason to conclude that this is not far from the truth. It is further stated that the large establishments were well insured, and "the agent of the Sun Life, a company holding about a quarter of a million on mortgages on business property, says that while deploring the catastrophe and attendant suffering, he could not regret the fire as it directly bore upon the company's business, because the Sun Life was amply insured, and the mortgages were not profitable, since the city did not go ahead as quickly as anticipated."

Still, the energy of the people is unabated. In twenty-four hours after the fire of Sunday, handbills were out announcing that the market would be held as usual Friday, and that the fall exhibition would take place next month. On Tuesday a row of wooden cabins had taken the place of the handsome brick blocks on Columbia street. And the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Canadian Pacific Navigation Company, and the Government declare their intention of rebuilding their establishments. As an indication of the spirit that pervades the Western people it deserves to be mentioned that the Royal City lumber mills on the day after the fire announced that all who wished might have lumber, taking their own time to pay for it; besides this the company opened a free eating house for the famishing citizens, for the fire destroyed all the provisions in the city. The wholesale houses all over the country promised aid in the way of long notes for new stock. Up to Sept. 23rd, from all sources, $45,000 had been subscribed in cash to assist Westminster, and one million dollars will be received in insurance.

HEALTH MEASURES IN SUMMERSIDE.

It sometimes happens that the citizens of a place require to look at it through the spectacles of a person living elsewhere in order to understand the defects of their municipality. Possibly the people of Summerside, Prince Edward Island, who are blest by Nature with a fine site for their town, and who have done much to make it attractive, will not object to taking the glasses of The Monetary Times for a minute and looking at their precinct. These glasses show a prosperous place, on one of the healthiest islands in the world; an energetic populace, who have built mills, handsome brick warehouses and still handsomer dwellings; good schools and plenty of churches. They are in the midst of a thrifty farming population, and have many advantages, natural and acquired, But the glasses show no system of sewers, no waterworks, and yet the place has 3,000 of a population! If we did not know that sickness and death had come of such a default we should predict them. But unhappily word reaches us that, in spite of copious rains and the pure sea air, the number of deaths, especially amongst the young, that have occurred during the past two or three months have alarmed the people. And the Summerside Journal warns them, as it has warned them before, that "the sanitary conditions of this town are, for want of waterworks and sewerage, dangerous, and measures cannot be too quickly taken for the introduction of these improvements." There is surely no need to argue the matter. The residents must, for their own safety, do at least what they should have arranged for at first. And if they do not, they can scarcely hope to make Summerside the place of summer resort they would fain see it.

THE HALIFAX EXHIBITION.

The Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition has this year suffered from bad weather on several days of its progress. Still, the attendance has been large and those who attended could not reasonably be disappointed, for it was a very creditable Fair in several respects. The entries of cattle and horses were 500 in number, and there were over 150 coops of poultry. It was supposed the entrance fee this year would prevent exhibits, but this did not prove the case. Horticultural Hall was well filled, and its contents well arranged. No less than 22 county exhibits were made in this department, apples being the main item. Considering the prominence of Nova Scotia in the fisheries it was appropriate to secure, as was done, a good display of goods of this kind. And the small exhibit from Cape Breton was an earnest of what that rich district could do.

The main building was nicely decorated, as indeed was Horticultural Hall. It was a good idea to have fitted up a "Merchants' Bureau," where city merchants could meet and entertain their friends. Such decorative exhibits as that made by the Dominion Atlantic Railway must always be welcome at such an occasion; this one reminds us of what the Grand Trunk did at the Toronto Fair in the way of pictures. A Halifax firm did themselves credit by their electric display, and the stained glass exhibit was attractive. Christie, Brown & Co., the Toronto biscuit men, who make some 620 varieties of biscuits, had a display, which covered space 20 by 20 feet. There was a good food display from Annapolis, and an Ontario Canning Co. had 5,000 tins of their product on view in the shape of triumphal arches. Nor were the Bell and other pianos and organs behindhand in display. The Fowler Co., of St. John, did well in showing edge tools. There were 8,000 visitors at the Fair on Monday, and about 7,000 went at night to see the relief of Lucknow. Altogether, it has been an encouraging event, and does credit to the province.

TRAVELERS' INSURANCE CO.

After a long sojourn on Church street the Toronto authorities of the Travelers' Insurance Company have removed their offices to the corner of Yonge and King streets. Mr. Thayer, chief agent for Ontario, west of Belleville, is evidently possessed with the eminently practical notion that his office should be made convenient for the public, and attractive to his agents. Accordingly he has taken rooms on the first floor of the new Lawlor building. One large room is reserved for the public; one is for Mr. Thayer himself; the remaining four are for the uses of agents and their customers, present or prospective. These apartments are all neatly and quietly upholstered, fitted with oak wainscot and furniture. A company so well known owes it to the community to be easily found by the public; and to cater to the wishes and needs of its agents is good policy. If all people were observant and had good memories we should not need to remind them of the long-established claims to confidence of the Travelers' Accident Company. But it may be well to state that the company is thirty-five years old, has assets of $24,000,000 and a surplus of $4,244,000. This is conclusive as to its soundness, for the statement has been verified by four of the United States superintendents of insurance. The company has been a great public benefactor, for it has paid out to policy-holders since 1894 no less than thirty-five millions of dollars.