

realizing what his position really is, should think it proper to retain, as his legal adviser, a gentleman, who is at the same time acting for the debtor, and when the latter is seeking to compromise with his creditors. But strange as this is, it is stranger still, that any member of a profession, which is supposed to be educated up to fine sense of propriety, should be willing to be placed in such an equivocal position. The fact, however remains that this sort of enormity has been perpetrated more than once, and cases are not wanting in which, under such conditions, settlements have been carried through, and some debtors have not been slow to acknowledge their obligation to solicitors, who have been credited with engineering settlements while acting in this dual capacity. That creditors should be found willing to tolerate such an imposition, is, perhaps, the most surprising feature of the whole matter.

### THE ENGLISH HARVEST.

The better the English harvest, the less of breadstuffs will it be necessary to import; on this account, the relative yield of the English harvest is a matter of direct interest to Canada. The *Times* reports are extremely favorable for the English farmers: The cereal crops exhibit a *minimum* of fungoid disease and insect depredation; a continuance of almost uninterrupted sunshine, reaching to tropical temperature, has enabled a major portion of England to secure its produce with a despatch scarcely equaled within memory; and, with the exception of some local thunder storms, rainfall, such as that of the last day or two, has benefitted the corn rather than otherwise. Such was the weak and backward state of spring-sown crops that nothing but a splendid season could have brought them to anything approaching an average; and over considerable regions of the south, the west and the east, and partially in the midland and northern counties, heavy rains had so prostrated and battered the wheats, that nothing but the dry time which has been experienced, could have saved the country from a wide-spread disaster of blight and mildew. Bulky and laid wheats must, of course, yield a share of lean grain; but a damp harvest period would have utterly ruined the produce on hundreds of thousands of acres. As it is, judgment is within the mark in saying that the beaming sun has augmented the total yield of wheat, barley and oats, by millions sterling, and that the quick ripening and harvesting have put several shillings per quarter on the value of all the grains, in respect of quality and condition. In wheats, if not barleys, winnowers and screens will have little inferior and chicken corn to take out; and by advices from the markets in all the early districts, we learn that the new wheats are up to noble weights per bushel, and some of them in the finest hard condition for grinding."

### UNDERGROUND INSURANCE.

We understand that for sometime past no small amount of this kind of insurance has been effected in Canadian places bordering on the United States. We fear such business is not now confined to these places, and the

boldness with which it is done is marvellous, as the following circular, issued by a firm in the city of Hamilton, will show. Two of these circulars have been sent to us—one from Hamilton—the other from Woodstock.

Hamilton, 26th August, 1884.

GENTLEMEN.—We, the undersigned, having made the necessary arrangements, are in a position to place large lines of insurance for the public in first class companies at moderate rates. The companies represented are not under the control of local boards, nor connected with the present combination, but will write lines of insurance at fair rates, and secure perfect protection for the assured. We solicit a fair share of your insurance and will also place it as to merit your confidence. Yours respectfully,

F. L. HOOPER & Co.  
Ins. Brokers and Commission Merchants.

Office Alexandra Arcade,  
Hamilton, Ont.,  
629 F. Street, Washington.

The Anglo American Fire Ins. Co., we understand, is the one for which Hooper & Co. are acting. Surely the parties constituting this firm are not aware of the penalties to which they make themselves liable by placing business in a company not licensed by either Dominion or Provincial authority. By Section 14 of the Consolidated Insurance Act of 1875, 38 Vic., chap. 20, a person is liable to fine or imprisonment. The act reads as follows: "Any person who delivers any policy of insurance, or collects any premium, or transacts any business of insurance on behalf of any company as aforesaid, without such license as aforesaid, shall be liable to a penalty of one thousand dollars for each such contravention of this Act; which penalty may be sued for and recovered on information filed in the name of the Attorney General of Canada; and one half of the said penalty, when recovered, shall be paid to the Crown, and the other half of the said penalty to the informer; and in case of payment of such non-penalty and costs, within one month after such judgment, the person so offending shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months, in the discretion of the court wherein he is convicted."

Here is a chance for a person who wants to make money. Let him get a policy of insurance from Hooper & Co., or from any other person who will condescend to violate the law of the land, by this illicit dealing in underground insurance, and lay an information against such person. On conviction, and collection of the fine of one thousand dollars, he will be entitled to one half of it. A gentleman in one of our principal towns writes to us stating that he has been asked to act as sub-agent to one of these underground brokers. He very wisely declined. We would advise all insurance agents to give a wide berth to parties who act for Companies that have no right to transact insurance business in Canada. We would also recommend insurers to avoid insuring in companies that condescend to do an illicit business of this kind. No respectable company on the other side of the Line 45° will be guilty of such conduct. We shall have something to say in a future number as to the standing of the companies now attempting to do underground insurance.

According to the *Iron Trade Journal*, of Cleveland, the immense stove works of Sherman S. Jewett & Co., at Buffalo, N.Y., have ceased production for an indefinite period.

### COTTON SPINDLES IN BRITAIN.

It appears that no official return of the number of spinning spindles at work in the cotton industry of the United Kingdom has been issued since 1879. Frequent inquiries having been addressed to the *Manchester Guardian* for the purpose of ascertaining the spinning power of that country, the journal named presents, on the authority of the Cotton Spinners' Association, an estimate of the total number of spindles in Great Britain. The interest of the table centres largely in the spinning capacity which it shows of the various districts. It will be observed that no allusion is made to Glasgow, and we must assume that the spinning power of Scotland is included under the heading "other districts."

It is to be borne in mind that the figures given below opposite each place named, include the spindles in the district around such place:

	Spindles.		Spindles.
Accrington..	600,000	Leigh .....	1,060,000
Ashton-under		Roehdale ..	1,250,000
Lyne ....	2,400,000	Manchester ..	2,063,000
Bacup .....	442,000	Marple ....	271,000
Blackburn ..	1,630,000	Middleton ..	411,000
Bolton .....	4,700,000	Mossley ....	1,240,000
Burnley ....	1,020,000	Newchurch..	394,000
Bury .....	944,000	New Mills ..	68,000
Chorley ....	570,000	Padiham....	208,000
Clitheroe....	230,000	Preston ....	2,260,000
Colne .....	220,000	Stalybridge..	1,040,000
Darwen ....	470,000	Stockport ...	1,500,000
Eccles .....	350,000	Todmorden..	250,000
Glossop ....	1,050,000	Warrington..	71,000
Golborne....	110,000	Whalley ....	46,000
Haslingden..	280,000	Wigan .....	700,000
Heywood ..	630,000	Other districts	2,377,000
Hindley ....	220,000		
Hyde .....	870,000	Total..	41,000,000
Oldham ....	9,060,000		

—It is proposed to hold an inter-provincial exhibition in the Crystal Palace, London, in the year 1886. This is understood to be a cherished project of the Prince of Wales who desires it to be an event worthy of the countries whose products it is intended to represent. In such an exhibition Canada will be expected to take a foremost part. She has already shown, in previous affairs of the sort, what she can do and if we go into this at all, we must aim to keep our pre-eminence. One very practical objection may be made, namely the expense involved; and there are not wanting those who say "After what Canada has already paid for displays at Philadelphia, Paris, Sydney, is it not a waste of money to spent thousands more on an affair such as this in London." This, to be sure, is matter for discussion. It may be urged, meantime, that the expense of getting exhibits may be minimised by making a selection, from time to time, at our provincial shows, of such goods as are deemed worthy. The best specimens of the country's products could thus be secured, and complete arrangements made for getting them when wanted, supposing that they were not taken in the autumn of 1885. The machinery at present existing in connection with our largest exhibitions, might, we should think, be available to assist an object in which the country, as a whole, has an interest. Furthermore, our manufacturers would be stimulated to put their best foot foremost.