

## NOTES FROM OTTAWA.

The Annual Meeting of the Canadian Medical Association takes place here on the 12th, 13th and 14th inst. A number of distinguished physicians are expected from England and the United States.

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There is a scare here in connection with the water works. It was announced in a daily paper that the improvements being made to the tail races at Victoria island along the Buchanan channel would lower the level of the twenty foot well from which is taken the water supply of the city, and consequently expose it to be filled with frazil in winter. The city engineer, however, has stated that there is no danger, in his opinion, as the water works tailrace is seven feet deeper than the channel.

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It has been ascertained that there is a combine here among the carpenter contractors, whereby prices are maintained. The association goes over the tenders that may be made for any building work, and instead of the lowest tenderer getting the work, the tenders are so amended that the middle tenderer becomes the lowest. His tender is, of course, usually accepted by the architect. It is said that there have been several instances in which contemplating builders have abandoned their intentions on account of the tenders received being higher than was anticipated.

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The Hull council met on Tuesday and accepted a tender from Messrs. Bolduc & Cyr for a new fire station, to cost \$11,960. It is to be of brick.

The town is to be divided into fire districts, if the proposals of several aldermen carry.

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It was expected that the Ottawa council would have come to some decision on Tuesday night with regard to purchasing an extra fire engine, as already recommended by the fire committee, but nothing was done. In view of the heavy risks which the city always runs in regard to fire, it is by many thought a pity that there should be any delay in the matter. The excuse is that the appropriation has been exhausted, but it is held that even so, there should be no difficulty in arranging for subsequent payment with whatever firm should be asked to supply the steamer.

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The need for an extra steamer was fully demonstrated at the recent fires. Two important fires broke out the same night, and although the water service was inadequate to supply a stream that would reach the roof of a two storey house with any force, the steamer could only attend one fire. Two fires at one time should not be beyond the power of a city like Ottawa to handle.

SPHINX.

## Correspondence.

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

## TORONTO LETTER.

The Toronto Industrial Exhibition—A Throng of Visitors—Superior Fire Protection at Exhibition Grounds this Year—The Return of our Invalidated Soldiers—Annual Meeting of C.F.U.A.—A New Picture.

Dear Editor:

We are in the midst of our Industrial Exhibition ferment. The heat prevailing last week made sight-seeing a tiring thing for all save the youngsters who seem never to tire. It is said the best paying part of the Toronto display is the Grand Stand. Likely it is. The amusement feature is fairly well represented and the fire works seem to be a joy forever. One distracting feature of the modern circus has been introduced into the Toronto Industrial. I allude to the "double event" business before the Grand Stand, where, if you are able to take in two scenes at the one instant, keeping one eye on one and the other eye on the other, you can get very good value for your money. Someone has made a calculation showing that any grown person desiring to see the main show and all the various side and special shows, not omitting the dog and poultry exhibits, which are always extras, he would have to expend \$2.80. There is one charge that is possible and not yet applied, namely, a small fee for going out when you are through. Each year some little ingenuity is employed by the Fair managers in fee collecting. The latest thing is charging the farmer ten cents extra to see the horses judged.

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Toronto is reaping a harvest these bright days, without doubt. Visitors from across the line still throng our streets daily, in addition to the usual Ontario visitors at this season. In consequence the coins are abundant and gladden the local tradespeople. It is the season of Fall Fairs, and I think there must be something in the temperament and tastes of our Ontario folk naturally leading them to launch and make these fairs the successes they generally are. It is evident the people as a whole love them and patronize them. This is a strong contrast to your Quebec people, who do not seem to take to the Fair or Industrial Exhibition business with any marked enthusiasm and delight. You must have lots of fine cattle, root crops, and farm products of many kinds to exhibit. Perhaps you lack the knack of fake and freak collecting, upon which crowds depend so much for amusement, and upon sufficient patronage the money success depends.

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The officials of the Toronto Board of Fire Underwriters state that in no previous year have such excellent fire protection and general cleanliness been apparent at the Exhibition grounds, whilst all electrical plants have been constantly supervised, so that the extra fire hazard may be said to have been re-