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## THE Insurance and Finance Chronicle

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### A Bicycle roadway.

As we pointed out in a recent issue, that new occupant of the roadway, the bicycle, creates a new condition of traffic which, sooner or later, will have to be provided for. The wheelmen are now numerous enough to embarrass vehicular traffic, and at times practically to prohibit pedestrians from crossing the public highway. On a recent night there were three collisions in one hour between bicycles and carriages, all on one street in this city. The road around St. Louis Square; St. Denis St., above Sherbrooke; Sherbrooke St.; Dorchester St.; has been appropriated by wheelmen for race tracks. This usurpation has taken place in other cities. The favorite road for Toronto wheelers has become so troublesome to drivers that a special part of the road is to be set aside for bicyclists under an Act passed last session by the Ontario Legislature giving municipalities power to so set apart a portion of the highway in their limits. This suggests a solution of what ere long will be a very grave problem. Drives of business vehicles will not much longer submit to being excluded from leading thoroughfares, to the free and safe use of which they have the first right. We do not see how bicyclists can be restricted to certain roads in business hours. But after then, when they turn out by thousands, and race at from 10 to 15 miles an hour in lines covering the whole roadway, they undoubtedly deprive other persons of the free and safe use of the same roadway, which is the common right of every citizen. A bicycle boulevard will become necessary in every city if the use of the wheel continues to develop. The Toronto cinderpath for wheels is a step of much significance.

### India thanks Canada.

PRIVATE persons are free to distribute alms so unostentatiously as to keep their left hand in ignorance of the deeds of the right. Those, however, who are trustees of public funds which have been given to some specific charity are not at liberty to conceal their actions as trustees. Honor, self-interest, respect to the charity itself, and to the natural feelings of the contributors to such fund, all dictate the fullest publicity being given to the evidence showing that the funds so gathered have been rightfully administered. Nothing so quickly kills a benevolent movement as a doubt arising in regard to the honesty of its promoters, and nothing so quickly breeds suspicion as concealment, or silence. The remarkable success of the effort to raise funds in Canada for the sufferers in India was largely owing to the prompt and public acknowledgment in the *Star* of every gift, however small, and the equally prompt acknowledgments of accumulated subscriptions by the Treasurer, and the Governor General. The Viceroy of India has completed this chain by writing to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada in which he warmly acknowledges "the sympathy and generosity of Canada." As the Viceroy, Lord Elgin, is a Canadian by birth, he expresses his pride in Canada standing first in the aid sent to the sufferers from famine in India. In all its features the movement by which "the sympathy and generosity of Canada" were manifested to our fellow subjects in India was most creditable to all who shared in this benevolence. Its motive, its management, its liberality, the effort reflects honor upon Canada; and the thanks of India coming, as it has done, directly from the viceregal ruler over that afflicted country, who is a born Canadian, is an exceedingly happy incident.

### Fast Steamers

A contract has been entered into between the British and Canadian Governments, and Messrs. Peterson & Co. for a line of fast steamers between Canada, and England. The Dominion is to provide an annual subsidy of \$500,000 and the home Government one of \$250,000. For the first year the steamers will perform a