

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by Correspondents

TORONTO LETTER.

The prospects of two Harvests.—Prosperous farmers.—Prosperous community.—The redistribution of Dead Letters.—Improved facilities required.—The Island Ferries.—Some supplementary remarks and explanations.

Dear Editor:—In these days of "leafy June," the fruit grower, the agriculturist and the farmer, look about them with vision sharpened by long practice and experience, and so make a reasonable estimate or forecast, of the probable yield of their several harvests. These prospects throughout the country, judging from what I have seen and heard are most encouraging, as regards both the orchard and the field. Whilst the market prices of to-day, may not rule so high in the harvest time, still there is almost a certainty that prices will be much higher than last year. What are the prospects for a good harvest for the Fire Underwriters? I consider them excellent. It is always noticeable, that the prosperity of the country and generally successful business operations, tend to reduce the fire loss. We are now experiencing some of the "better times" in Canada and accordingly a brightening up of things, fire, insurance wise, makes it reasonably safe to play the role of prophet, and prophesy good results, better perhaps than the average, for 1898. The Harvest Home for the insurance men dates, however, from 31st December; the danger of their crops overheating is passed over by that date. Though the increase in the volume of premiums just at present may not represent much advantage, the reduced loss ratio is just as good a thing to enjoy.

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Having lately some conversation with a friend, who represents the Confederation Life Association, in a district where there are many farmers; he said that the marked favorable change for the better in his life business, during the past few months, was very gratifying. He further said that he had this spring been able to write up risks that had been promised him for a long time, but were not completed for lack of means on the part of his farmer-clients. When the farmers and agriculturists; the producing community, do well, we all benefit. The Loan Companies have reason to be thankful for the higher prices now prevailing for field produce. Many a mortgage has been lifted, and much back interest paid in to the ease and comfort of both borrower and lender. Coming back to our own doors, we are thankful that we have here in Toronto improved business prospects. The city people are relieved to know that the tax rate for the year has been fixed at 17 mills. We feared a higher rate.

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It is stated that as many as 60,000 dead letters are posted in Toronto yearly. It is the present custom for these, together with all of their class throughout the Dominion, to be sent to Ottawa for inspection,

and return to the senders. The proposition to have other and more convenient centres provided as well as Ottawa, to which these unlucky missives might be sent for treatment is a good one, and should find favor with all classes. To send these letters all the way from Atlantic and Pacific coast towns to Ottawa, to be returned perhaps in most cases to the same cities, whence they came, is unbusiness-like and unwieldy, involving a needless waste of time and often serious inconvenience to persons. It is to be hoped the Post Master General will establish such relief stations.

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I have been informed that my reference to the published remarks in one of our daily papers in connection with the Island Ferry Service; also my own remarks thereupon have given offence to the management of the Toronto Ferry Company, as being unfair and incorrect. I would here say that my own statements did not refer or apply to this year, but to previous years; to which only my experience and observation up to date of writing, applies. My desire was to draw the attention of all interested to the charges made in the Daily Press in the hope that at the very commencement of what promises already to be an unusually lively season, the increased volume of traffic might be safeguarded in every possible way and surely the Ferry people have every reason to desire this themselves, seeing that any accident especially one of an avoidable kind, might greatly injure their business. That I wrote without any feeling other than that of a cautionary nature, is, I think obvious. I have too much regard for the prosperity and well-doing of all business enterprises in Toronto, besides the natural loyalty of a good citizen, to injure, or seem to defame, the good standing of any. I have no doubt the notice taken of these matters will be productive of good, (at least of no harm), and that our Island Ferries will be managed this, and future seasons, with safety to the public and satisfactory results to the proprietors.

Toronto, 6th June, 1898.

Yours Arid.

INTERNATIONAL REGISTRY CO.

To the Editor of THE CHRONICLE:—

Sir,—Regarding the International Registry Co., I am pleased to state that it is the largest concern of its kind in Canada. Its entry into Canada has been and is a success. It has complied with the provincial laws, and paid all taxes, and I am in a position to know that all claims arising have been promptly paid.

Yours truly,

G. F. BURNETT.

Director for Canada of the International Registry Co.

LONDON LETTER.

25th May, 1898.

Financial.

A general buoyancy characterises the markets at the present moment, and business in most stock is very plentiful. In the Foreign market where a lot of interest, of course, centres, Brazillians are the leading feature. A syndicate of well-known financiers have this stock in hand, and are guaranteeing the payment of coupons. Spanish Fours and Italians are in a strengthened position, and Chinese bonds exhibit a market improvement.