

reducing Sunday trading the new by-law will at once afford facilities for its being largely increased under the protection of the civic law.

* * *

The New York "Post" says:

"When John Bull comes to take account to stock and to figure on his profit and loss in the Boer war, he will find a tremendous balance on the wrong side of the ledger, and when he inquires who is to blame for it he will begin to suspect that if Joseph Chamberlain had not been at the head of the Colonial Office there would have been no such war and no such balance sheet."

John Bull knows his business—he has been in it too long to need advice. There would have been no war had the pro-Boers had their way; but there would have been a disgraced and disrupted Empire; British prestige would have been ruined; and Great Britain's power made a jest and a sneer. John Bull is not fretting over the "balance sheet"; he has borne twice the burthen without squealing.

* * *

It is to be hoped sincerely in the interests of the City that the granting of a site on Fletcher's Field for a contagious diseases hospital will be reconsidered. Mount Royal Park and its surroundings are of inestimable value to this large and growing city, and no money consideration should induce the Council to interfere with the people's playground. It is unnecessary to reiterate the reasons which have already been set forth against the placing of the hospital in the proposed locality, and if the protests of the citizens are of no avail, it is useless to say any more.

* * *

Contracts have been let for the erection of the new building of The Guardian Assurance Company, a sketch of which was given in a recent issue of THE CHRONICLE. This will be a handsome nine storey building, having an Indiana lime stone front, and be of the latest and most approved fire-proofed construction. Every bit of the woodwork used in connection with it will be treated by The Electric Fire-proofing Company, of Canada, and made absolutely non-flammable. The contract has been awarded to the well known firm of Messrs. Peter Lyall & Sons, who will have the building completed and ready for occupation by the 25th day of April, 1903. Work has already been commenced, so that not an hour was lost after the contract was awarded. The sub-contractors will be amongst the best in Montreal. The building, when completed, judging from the plans, will be a credit to the Company, to the architects, Messrs. Finley & Spence, and the contractors, and an ornament to the City of Montreal.

Correspondence.

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

TORONTO LETTER.

Peace!—A Missed Summary—A Regretted Death—The Late Fire at Lindsay—Sundry Reflections Thereon—After Election Peace.

DEAR EDITOR,—With the proclamation of Peace between Britain and Boer, there must come a universal feeling of relief and joy throughout the British Empire, and nowhere, at least, in the Dominion, are there more earnest and hearty congratulations and thanksgivings being voiced, than in this ever loyal city of Toronto. The memories and glamour of the grand doings in connection with the visit of the Royal pair last autumn, are with us yet, and together with the approaching coronation ceremonies and the departure of the Queen's Own Bugle Band in connection therewith, as also the generous recognition by those high in power, of the good and valorous service rendered by Canadians in the battle-field, our citizens are in a most amiable frame of mind towards the motherland. May such feelings long continue, grow, and deepen with the years.

I have just heard with great regret of the death of Mr. Hugo Kranz, manager of the Economical Fire Insurance Co., of Berlin, Ont. Mr. Kranz has, for many years been connected with the Economical, and earned the respect and appreciation of his "confreres," in the business circles he moved in.

Much comment and considerable dissatisfaction exists among the Companies interested in the late fire at Lindsay. Actually, the total losses were not very large, and with some Companies, they were but small, but it was recognized that a very heavy loss was but narrowly averted. Apparently, there was no reason why at the outstart the small initial fire in a stable should ever have spread about so much, as to cause losses out of all proportion to the hazard as we supposed and believed it to be. Starting in a small building, in a fairly well spaced area, in rear of many important shop buildings, fronting on one of the principal streets, the fire spread about, so that with other minor buildings, an important row of brick dwellings fronting on another street, with some of the contents were destroyed. The resulting claims on one of the British offices were out of all reasonable expectancy. We are now told that in the middle ground, behind these buildings, there was a presumably fire-proof structure, in which, both powder and dynamite (nice combination) were stored, sufficient in volume to blow the whole block up. The firemen were made aware of this fact and gave all their energy, and a large portion of their attention at a critical moment, to prevent this storehouse taking any harm. It is also affirmed that the water pressure was insufficient, and that the firemen had asked the Town Council some days previously, for additional hose and other necessary items, to complete their equipment, and were promised these things so soon as the new Fire Hall was completed. It is thought that the result of these several incidents has been to increase the loss to the Fire offices. It is just such oversight or lax civic administration that tends to stiffen rates in the lesser cities and towns. However excellent and up to date the fire appliances may be, there is always to be counted on, the fact that the lack of practice and experience in handling fires in such towns is to the disadvantage of the Fire Offices, and, therefore, when some easily preventible, official misadventure comes into play to intensify the situation, insurance people have good cause to complain. I hear the Lindsay citizens are causing the instant evacuation of that powder magazine. Anyone acquainted with the early history of the town of Lindsay will feel surprised that its people had not by this time made sure of having no danger spots in their midst. It has been said that Lindsay is one of