

at least fifty per cent. is asked, in justice to the community, to be insisted upon in the renewal of this charter. We trust that the demands of the general public interested will receive full consideration in these cases, and that unjust monopolies may be restrained.

—We have received the initial number of *The Insurance Advocate*, a monthly journal published in Montreal by Messrs. T. & R. White, and devoted to the interests which its name indicates. There is always room for the inculcation of correct principles and practices in respect to insurance; this is especially true of Canada to-day, and we welcome the publication in Montreal of a journal appearing under respectable auspices, which will assist in their dissemination. The articles in the *Advocate* show an acquaintance with insurance affairs, an appreciation of the irregularities that exist, and an ability to discuss them, which lead us to hope for its success.

—A second pamphlet from the pen of Mr. W. J. Patterson, addressed to the Board of Trade and Corn Exchange Association of Montreal, has just appeared. In it the writer asks: "Can there be an employment of our trade relations with the West Indies and South America?" We regret that we can do no more this week than merely bespeak from our merchants a perusal of the pamphlet, which abounds in information and statistics of great interest.

—Halifax exports for October amounted to \$353,314, of which \$185,308 was in fish. One-third of these fish went to the British West Indies, one-third to the Spanish Islands, one-fifth to the United States, and the balance to Britain and other countries; \$46,000 in value of manufactured articles were exported.

—The Imperial Bank has opened a branch office at St. Thomas, under the management of Mr. M. A. Gilbert, long and favourably known in that locality.

ADVERTISING SWINDLERS.—Under this heading the *Hamilton Times* has some apt remarks part of which we quote. It is quite true that an immense deal of money is yearly spent in the States, and no small sum in Canada too, in supporting schemes of advertising which, even where they are not exactly swindles, are a waste of money for their patrons. We have encountered not a few, however, which resemble the instance described below:—The prosecution and conviction of the two young men who, during last Provincial Fair, hawked about the city an advertising scheme calculated to obtain them money by fraud, should have some effect upon the whole fraternity, and, at the same time, prove cautionary to those people who are generally applied to for patronage. It would certainly be unjust to say that everybody engaged in the ostensible business these young men had adopted are swindlers, but there is much reason to believe that in the majority of instances they are. Certainly those who act as they did in promising, for a paltry sum, to

publish an advertisement in a fabulous number of sheets to be circulated on the railway trains and about the city are deserving of suspicion, while those who listen to their oily tongues and endless promises as to what they will do, run a great risk of being most egregiously deceived if they make a bargain with them. In the case referred to, the agents pledged themselves to distribute some twenty thousand copies of a certain advertising sheet, but had only 500 printed. The intention to defraud their customers was clear, for while they were, on the one hand, telling those they meant to dupe, that a very large issue would be struck off, they were, on the other hand endeavoring to arrange for the printing of only about one-fortieth of that number."

Correspondence.

COMMERCIAL COURTESY.

To the Editor of the *Monetary Times*.

Montreal, 25th Nov., 1876.

SIR.—Having been educated to punctilious notions of exactness and courtesy in business transactions, our sense of propriety has been a good deal startled by the manner in which a Hamilton firm of high commercial repute, fulfils its engagements.

A sale of merchandise was made to this firm, amounting to nearly four thousand dollars. Delivery was made according to contract, and a note should have been given in settlement October 1st. No settlement was made, and repeated letters and telegrams from us received no reply but a few words scribbled on the back of a postal card, promising to send notes soon. This was the only communication received in seven weeks. A special messenger, sent by rail to that city, was put off with an infinite promise, and when patience was exhausted and the necessity for the funds became more urgent, a draft was sent through the bank with instructions to protest if not accepted. This draft was honored, but no word of explanation or apology has been received.

The coolness with which our property was held, without any consideration, for nearly two months and the contemptuous silence which greeted all our appeals and entreaties appear to us to deserve reprobation. More promptitude and courtesy in fulfilling obligations would increase the good repute of Canadian commerce.

We think it right to call your attention to this case in order to influence public sentiment in favor of a higher standard of mercantile integrity than appears to prevail in, at least, some parts of the Dominion.

VICTIM.

To the Editor of the *Monetary Times*:

SIR.—Can you give any information regarding the mode in which official assignees can be made to perform their duty in distributing funds in their possession belonging to insolvent estates?

I am a creditor of an Ottawa insolvent estate, which was placed in the hands of a Montreal official assignee, who should have about \$2,000 on hand, and which he has retained for nearly two months, saying "the amount applicable for dividend is too small!" Can \$2,000 be considered too small a sum to divide among creditors claiming about \$13,000, or nearly fourteen per cent. on such claims? and even were the assignee's commission deducted, to which I believe he is not entitled, leaving a net dividend of ten per cent.?

It is annoying enough to make bad debts, but doubly so to be kept out of dividends for months after doing so, merely to swell the official assignee's balance in bank, and, very probably,

enable him to realize a handsome profit from his interest deposit account, at the expense of unfortunate creditors.

It appears to me that the Government should appoint an "Official Assignee Inspector," who could take cognizance of any irregularity on the part of official assignees, to whom complaints of negligence and delay could be referred, and who would make persons like the Montreal gentleman in question, pay over the funds of insolvent estates.

I am, sir,

A CREDITOR.

Insurance.

FIRE RECORD.—Milton, N. S., Nov. 14.—By the fire which broke out here Wyman's wooden-ware factory which, with several other buildings, was destroyed. The losses are J. B. Wyman \$6,000; J. N. Freeman, general store, \$2,000; S. Morton \$1,000; Ford Bros., blacksmiths, \$200; Winslow Wall \$200. Prince of Wales Lodge \$600. Believed to be no insurance whatever.

Logan, Ont., 16th.—Barn and stables of Michael Collins burned down with contents. Insured for \$450.

Sarnia, 21st.—Barn and shed of D. & J. Miller, 4th concession, were consumed by fire. Building insured in Agricultural Mutual; contents partially so in same company. Fire believed occasioned by "tramps" lodging and smoking.

Kincardine, 23rd.—A frame building owned and occupied by Mr. Hawkins, was burned. Fully insured.

Picton, Ont., 24th.—Frame barn of G. W. Johnson, destroyed by fire with contents. Insured for \$600.

Millpoint, 23rd.—Frame dwelling, occupied by Smith Watt and owned by Mr. Goodmurphy, burned down this morning. Loss, including furniture, \$600; insurance \$300.

Carronbrook, 18th.—A fire destroyed the wagon factory of John Dore. Loss \$2,000. Insured in Waterloo Mutual for \$900.

Wick, Ont., 23rd.—The stables of J. Rennie, of Brook were burned, together with grain and cattle contents.

Arthur, 17th.—A fire began in a straw stack, and spread to barn of Jer. O'Sullivan, 4th concession, which, with contents, was destroyed. O'Sullivan's loss \$1,200; insured in Victoria Mutual for \$700. Shannon & Maddigan lose a threshing machine, uninsured.

Wallace Bay, N. S. 22.—Mrs. Thompson's dwelling and two barns were burned down. No insurance.

Louisburg, N. S. 22.—The store of J. Cahoon was burned. Insured for \$850 in the Citizens'.

Sherbrooke, 19.—The barn of Mr. Woodward was destroyed by fire, with some shingles and several vehicles.

Montreal 25.—A fire broke out in the cellar of Joseph Richard's tailor shop and did damage to the extent of \$3,000, believed insured.

Oshawa, 25.—The old "Christian" Church burned to the ground, loss mostly covered by insurance.

Wingham, Nov. 28.—A fire destroyed the Albion Hotel, owned by Mr. James. Loss, including furniture, \$200. Insurance, \$150.

Chatham, Nov. 26.—A frame dwelling on Harvey street was destroyed by fire.

Elmira, Nov. 25.—Isaac Musselman's house took fire; the roof is damaged to the extent of \$200 to \$300. Insured in Waterloo Mutual.

Hawkesbury, Nov. 26.—Dwelling and out-buildings of the estate of E. Hersey burned down. Insured for \$5,000.

Montreal, Nov. 26.—The fur store of W. Reipert was damaged by fire to the amount of \$250.