

PERSONALS.

MR. JAS. MACDONALD OXLEY has resigned the management of the English department of the Montreal agency of the Sun Life to become the managing director of the Farnel Manufacturing Company, Limited. The good wishes of Mr. Oxley's friends will follow him in his departure from the sunny fields of insurance into the busy factory from whence will come food fit to tickle the taste, increase the weight, and improve the appearance of Canadian or foreign cattle to such a degree that, when they are offered for sale at home or abroad, the butcher will exult and say: "Wonderful are the effects of Farnel." THE CHRONICLE joins with Mr. Oxley's friends in wishing him success in this flight to fresh fields and pastures new.

Correspondence.

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

TORONTO LETTER.

The Ostrich Farm Established in Munro Park.—The Robertson Lindsay Departmental Store Fire at St. Thomas.—Toronto Firemen to be Reduced in number during Holiday Season.—Death of the Wife of Thomas R. Wood.—Death of Samuel Shaw.

Dear Editor.—In a former recent issue of THE CHRONICLE, I referred to the establishment of an ostrich farm in our midst. On Saturday last, the opening day of this new venture was celebrated with some small ceremonies, which included a special street car for invited guests, and a lunch over which Manager Keating of the Street Railway Company on request presided. Many City Aldermen, and some of the York Township Council attended and improved their scant knowledge of the habits and peculiarities of the ostrich. Two of the birds are noted "broncho-buckers," and although submitting to give a mount, they do not guarantee any permanence thereof. None of the aldermen ventured to try a fall. Mr. Lundy, who has introduced this undertaking, intends to make it a success in Canada, and run a feather factory. For the present, the Toronto Street Railway have secured the location of this Ostrich Farm in their Munro Park, Toronto East, and it is proving a great attraction down that way, to the pecuniary advantage of the Railway Company. Munro Park, well-served, and greatly improved and advertised, will prove a rival to Toronto Island Park, and incidentally to the Toronto Ferry Company.

The heavy fire loss sustained by the Insurance Companies by the burning of the Robertson Lindsay Departmental Store at St. Thomas, on 20th May, is a very annoying single fire loss. Say building \$17,000. Stock, \$60,000, a total of \$83,000 dropped in a first-class, part two, part three story first-class building, situated on a corner of two streets and of easy all round access! Certainly, it is not creditable to the local fire brigade of a stirring town like St. Thomas. A prompt alarm at 11.20 p.m., and a quick arrival on the scene of the brigade, should have been circumstances favorable enough to have secured control of a fire originating, and at the instant of their arrival, still confined to, one room in the 2nd story. "But" (I quote from a St. Thomas paper before me), the

"efforts of the Department were fruitless, they seemingly being unable to throw water into the 2nd story where the fire was." Now, St. Thomas ranks on the Association List as a "B" town, but the C. F. U. A. Inspector had better make re-enquiry as to the right of such fire appliances, or such management, to enjoy any longer their present status. I suppose the lack of experience, infrequent drill, also a lack of quick unexpected summons to assemble, must militate against the efficiency of the fire brigades of all country-towns. The standard requirements of a B. C. or D. town may have been supplied, but there is a lack of efficient handling of these because the men, as a body, on the instant of alarm are all excited, and more or less confused. Only long training can supply the needed coolness, and regular method, requisite in emergencies, for good work. Many moons will wax and wane, I fear, before the Insurance Companies will regather \$80,000, or so, in St. Thomas premiums.

We have a little ripple on our usually, of late, calm water, as between the city and the Fire Insurance Companies. It appears to be the custom each year for the city to allow the firemen, in turn, holiday privileges. In this way, from the total force of firemen, 179, as many as 45, may be "off" at one time. Now the chief, recognizing the danger in this feature, has asked that the city give him a temporary extra staff of 8 men, which he proposes to distribute during the holiday season at certain danger points, as follows:—2 at Lombard street; 2 at Bay street; 1 at College street, 1 at Yonge street, 1 at Portland street, and 1 at Berkeley street stations. The estimated cost of these extra men will be about \$1,100, and whilst the Fire Committee have recommended this grant to be allowed, it is doubtful if the Controllers will pass it. We all are aware that the Civic Authorities consider that a staff of 170 men are an unnecessarily large (?) number, and in consequence, they may say nay to the proposition to provide 8 men as suggested by the chief. I suppose the Insurance Companies are helpless in the matter, but the proposed depletion of the firemen force in a dry hot summer, such as we expect, and usually have, should not be allowed to become a fact, unnoticed or unchallenged.

The wife of Mr. Thomas R. Wood, of Wood & Kirkpatrick (Aetna & Phenix of Brooklyn), died this morning. This lady for many months past was a great sufferer. Notwithstanding the long exercised skill of eminent medical men in New York, she sometime ago lost her eyesight; in itself a great affliction. The many friends of Mr. Wood, far and near, will greatly sympathise with him in his bereavement.

On Saturday the 27th May, in Toronto, died Samuel Shaw, aged 70 years. As Agent in this City for the Mercantile and for the Waterloo Fire Insurance Companies for the past twenty years, and also for sometime previously the Queen Assurance Company, of England, Mr. Shaw became a well-known man in insurance circles, among the members of which he had many warm personal friends. Born in Montreal, Mr. Shaw at an early age came with his parents to Toronto, where with the exception of a few years in business in Detroit, he spent all his life. Possessed of a clear and retentive mind, and the faculty of facile expression of his ideas, he was an entertaining companion, and when reminiscent most exact in all details of note. Families, personages, localities in and around Toronto were readily recalled by Mr. Shaw in a vivid life like way, all his own. Not seldom, indeed, was