

Correspondence.

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TORONTO LETTER.

The Death of George Jaffray—Reopening of Insurance Institute—Mr. Henry Lye—Toronto Water Supply and Fire Appliances—An Interesting Report.

Dear Editor:

With feelings of sincere personal regret I have to record the death of Mr. George Jaffray, Toronto Agent of the Manchester Fire Assurance, which occurred on the 3rd instant. Alike valued by his company and his business confreres for his honesty of purpose and upright dealing, his many friends will long remember him as one, generous, loyal and true, and, withal, unassuming in his kindly ways. It was well-known that to Manager Boomer, of the Manchester, Mr. Jaffray was something more than a much appreciated business connection, for their intimacy and association, apart from business, was of the most friendly nature. For some months past Mr. Jaffray had been in failing health, but only within the last few weeks was he confined to his house. Laid to rest in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, on Friday, the 6th instant, the last and saddest offices of relatives and friends were rendered him, and those grave silences of men, so expressive of their sorrow and respect. A special meeting of the Toronto Board of Fire Underwriters unanimously Resolved:

"That we, the members of the Toronto Board of Fire Underwriters called together on the occasion of the death of our colleague, Mr. George Jaffray, Toronto Agent of the Manchester Assurance Company, desire to give expression to the deep sorrow with which we have heard of his demise, and to place on record our appreciation of the sterling character of our esteemed confrere, whose genial disposition and upright bearing won for him our warm regard and confidence."

The funeral being private, a deputation of the Board was named to attend.

The reopening of the Insurance Institute of Toronto will take place on the 9th inst., in the Institute rooms, in the Lancashire Building, when, after the president's opening address, papers will be read by Mr. J. J. Kenny, a review of Dean's "The Rationale of Fire Rates," and on "Life Insurance Office Work," by Mr. Wm. McCabe, manager of the North American Life. The library and reading room of the Institute are nicely fitted up, and are both comfortable and commodious. The second year of the Institute commences under favourable auspices, and its friends hope a career of usefulness and of help, especially to the younger members has been entered upon.

Mr. A. M. M. Kirkpatrick was able to resume his seat as president of the Toronto Board at its meeting yesterday, fully recovered from his recent illness.

An old insurance friend and also an old friend of THE CHRONICLE, Mr. Henry Lye, having completed a somewhat lengthy engagement in the West, has returned to Toronto and set up his household goods in this city at No. 36 Henry street. Mr. Lye's many

services to insurance companies in a professional way will be well remembered, and, although I am without any positive information on this point, I surmise he may be willing once more to give his advice and assistance to any requiring them.

Without desire to be considered an alarmist, or to imply that a situation more acute than has prevailed for some time past, exists to-day, I nevertheless feel it is quite in order to refer to the position in which the water supply of Toronto, especially as regards fire pressure, now is said to be. It has been brought to my mind by reading in the papers that a report of one of the city officials to the city authorities informed them that the breaking down of one or more of their pumping engines, now overworked, might lead to a water famine, besides leaving portions of the city without necessary pressure for fire purposes. A report of Mr. Robert Howe, inspector for the C. F. U. A., upon the fire preventive appliances of Toronto, dated August 31st last, item 4 bears directly on this very feature. He says:—

"The high level pumps, having both to work together, are not in duplicate within the meaning of the standard, and, if a serious breakdown were to occur, the fire pressure over the important area supplied by them would be endangered; it therefore appears necessary that action should be taken to remedy this defect, and I am of opinion that an additional pump of not less than 5,000,000 gallons capacity should be installed for that purpose."

Continuing, he says, that "adequate protection" is still lacking in that long-neglected spot the water front south of the G. T. R. tracks. Water mains of increased dimensions in certain sections are also requirements urgently needed, also a sixth steam fire engine "in view of the increasing number of manufacturing," and the "enlarging area over which the services of the steamers may be required." Reference is also made to the large number of hydraulic elevators whose operations is "injurious to the maintenance of steady pressure." The report of Mr. Howe, as a whole, affords much of interest to the underwriter who cares for the interests of his company. Whether the city will take any action to improve the fire appliances and bring them up to that standard of efficiency upon which the present rates are based I cannot tell—who can? Perhaps, if I secured election as alderman for my ward next January, I might learn more—and forget more.

Yours, ARIEL.

Toronto, 9th October, 1900.

LONDON LETTER.

FINANCE.

27th Sept., 1900.

No recovery of the markets can as yet be reported. For nine or ten months now a pretty general level of dullness has been the fate of Throgmorton street, and the time of the lifting of the clouds is not yet. American railway securities on this side are the prey of the bears, and the anthracite miners' strike has been an invaluable aid to the ursine party. Home Rails are still under the cloud of increasing expenses and threatened labour troubles, and even the enhanced traffic receipts accruing from the fine autumn