

reply to one enquiry from Jamaica in regard to Canada's boot and shoe trade. The excellent exhibit of Canadian made boots and shoes at the Glasgow Exhibition is regarded as strong evidence of the capacity of the manufacturers of this country to build up a large export trade. The best boots sent to South Africa for the troops were made in Montreal. The supply of leather is likely to be very large as ranching increases and dressed meats displace exports of live cattle. The Government could help the trade by giving free entry to all the raw and partly manufactured materials and all the machinery used in making boots, shoes and other leather goods. In 1900, Canada exported hides to value of \$1,322,040, sole and upper leather valued at, \$1,540,414, other leather goods, \$262,975, and only \$86,118 worth of boots and shoes, principally to Australia, Newfoundland, and the West Indies, with \$17,510 worth to Great Britain. The hides now exported ought to be tanned in Canada, and the leather exported worked up here, by which a considerable addition would be made to our industries, and the manufacturers would be greatly helped by having a continuous demand for their out-put. The leather trade, including boots and shoes, seems to have possibilities that need attention and cultivation.

A scheme is talked of to establish a new marine insurance company especially for the St. Lawrence trade, in connection with which the names of Sir Christopher Furness, and Mr. Clergue, of Sault Ste. Marie are associated. Talk is also riving of a new scheme to establish a fast Atlantic service. The conditions this year have not been very encouraging for the former scheme, and for the latter to be carried beyond the stage of talk to some more practical phase, there will need to be such improvements made in the St. Lawrence route from the coast of Newfoundland onwards to this port, as will remove the present reproach resting on the lighting and buoy and signal service for the guidance and protection of vessels.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by correspondent

TORONTO LETTER.

Our Welcome to the Duke and Duchess—The Humorous Side of Things—A Splendid Military Spectacle—Not forgetting the Toronto Fire Brigade—The Autumn Opening of the Insurance Institute.

Dear Editor,—Once more we Torontonians have settled down to our usual pursuits, the daily grind, whereby we derive the means to satisfy our necessities and procure superfluities. But we have had a grand time of it during the half week Royalty, and its retinue were in our midst. Such an event as this Royal progress happens but once

in a lifetime for the majority of us, and we flung ourselves into the whirl and glitter of it all regardless of consequences to person or pocket. The street parade in the west end, of some 11,000 of our soldier boys, horse, foot and artillery, was one of the supreme pleasures to most of us, a delight, too, free to all, and that came to many in the nature of a recompense or consolation, because thousands of people could not possibly get even near the grand stand to see the military review and the presentation of medals. Personally, I would have much regretted it had I missed this sight. It was a feature in the festivities that was Toronto's very own; her one contribution to the Royal pageant in which, so far as the rest of Canada was concerned, she was unique. We congratulate ourselves, too, in the knowledge that all arrangements in connection with the welcoming of the Duke and Duchess went off smoothly, and that no accident occurred to mar the pleasant ever-memorable occasion. Rather humorous for onlookers was the hesitation manifested by the members of sundry delegations in moving off after presentations of their several addresses to the Duke. In twos and threes they deposited their unread documents in the Royal hands, but they remained around the Royal feet in such a group as to obscure the view of the elect spectators in the front seats below. I believe that finally they had to be steered by some high functionary off the scene. The trouble, of course, with them was how to get to, "as you were," without turning backs on Royalty. Going down steps backward, and gracefully when you are perhaps well on in years, is an art not acquired in a day. Well, good nature, our exuberant loyalty and our martial spirit had all a good outing on that memorable day when our probably future King and Queen came to see us and our city.

Our fire laddies were duly inspected and as always, made a brave show, being a fine body of men, as good to look upon in holiday array, as they are when in the eager discharge of their dangerous duties in fighting fires. On three or four occasions fire alarms were rung, but the incipient blazes were happily soon quelled. Underwriters feel relieved to think that we have passed through a time of extra fire hazard consequent upon the quantity of temporary electric wiring in use, and illuminations of one kind or another, without any serious accident.

On Friday evening, the 18th inst., the opening meeting for the season of the Insurance Institute of Toronto, was held with a goodly attendance of members. The younger men predominated, which I was glad to see because it manifested the interest taken in the Institute and its work, by those who are expected to benefit most by its existence. The meeting was a very enjoyable one. The reading of President Laidlaw's address was listened to with evident interest and pleasure. "The Ethics of Life Insurance," a paper read by Mr. Thomas Hilliard of the Dominion Life Assurance Co., was not, from its title, expected to appeal to the Fire Insurance men or hold their attention, yet so ably prepared and delivered was it, that I do not think anyone present missed a single word of it. Even a dry class subject cleverly handled can be made to yield profit and entertainment to all. I may add that Mr. Hilliard had all a Waterloo man. That little village up west, off the Grand Trunk Railway, has sent in to Canadian Insurance ranks several of its sons, and their lights are not hid under bushels either.

Berlin is not in it with Waterloo, and yet there is a plank sidewalk all the way between the two places. A paper on Sprinkler Equipment by Mr. J. T. Naylor, of the C. F. U. A. staff, in the absence of the writer, was kindly read by Mr. Robins, Secretary of the C. F. U. A. This contribution bristled with information for the fire people, but the life men did not quite gather it all in, though looking wise, as is their wont. After these readings and a few remarks in connection with the subjects treated the members passed into the social and final stage of the function, when assisted by light refreshments and good fellowship, a pleasant evening was pleasantly wound up.

I see the Montreal Institute has opened up quite in a manner of style. Are you really striving to go Toronto one better? That we are going to hold up over end you may rest assured and for the rest, let results tell.

Yours,

ARIEL.

TORONTO, 22nd October, 1901.