Correspondence.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the Monetary Times:

SIR.—The need of an industrial school for boys having been urged on your community for several years, and a legislative grant of land and money having, I understand, been recently made toward the same, I venture to send you, as a matter of public interest, a few facts relating to the Halifax Protestant Industrial School, for some years in existence here.

A number of years ago a committee of citizens, impressed with the need of an agency for putting the ragamuffins of this city to some better use than that of filling up first gutters and afterwards gaols, founded this school and began their work of training. Passing over vicissitudes and difficulties, let us look at the institution to-day. Here are, as I found this week. thirty-six lads, from 9 to 18 years of age, a dozen of whom are maintained at the expense of the city, a number of the others by churches, legacies, or personal guarantee of private citizens. The remaining sources of maintenance are shoemaking, carpet-beating, and the production of kindling-wood, by the labor of the inmates. These lads were civil to the visitors and to one another, and neither at their work nor in the excitement of their play—they have cricket, base ball, gymnastics and a sail-boat, besides a drum and fife band—did we hear cursing or see improper behavior. The boys do farm work, gardening and are taught shoemaking. One lad who learned shoemaking in the school, gives satisfaction to his employer in the city and earns good wages. Another, who profited by the night schooling, has a situation. Both these I saw; they expressed gratitude for what had been done for them. Another turned out to be a smart, well-educated chap and joined the North-West Mounted Police. Still others are married and lead orderly and worthy lives.

Of course, in the conduct of such enterprises, much depends on the superintendent. I found that functionary here a firm, sensible, wholesome looking Englishman who, as well as his wife, the matron, is penetrated with Dr. Bernardo's idea of loving, personal influence and control, and shows the success of it by the hold he has upon his boys. He says he found lying "an awful trouble," but is gradually getting it eradicated. He has conquered by kindly remonstrance in a case of stealing for which he used the dark room in vain.

In conversation with Mr. John S. Maclean, who has for years been prime mover in this enterprise. and who is as well known here as Mr. W. H. Howland is in your city in connection with philanthropic matters, a few points, whose importance had been demonstrated in the history of this enterprise, were emphasized:

"First, and emphatically," said Mr. Maclean, "make your school entirely undenominational, and avoid governmental or municipal management. Decidedly an important feature of the work is to get the right man for manager. We are very well situated in that respect, and the school was never so prosperous and promising. Still, we have to look closely after it, practise every economy, and it still needs help in the way of concerts, subscriptions, &c."

First steps should be carefully taken in such matters, and if your plans are not yet all complete, I venture to think the foregoing may be found of service.

J. H.

Halifax, 20th July, 1885.

LAPSED POLICIES IN LIFE INSURANCE.

To the Editor of the Monetary Times.

SIR,—I have read with interest the article on the "Mutual Reserve Fund's" methods which appears in your issue of the 17th inst. In reference to "lapses," which are treated of, allow me to add, in addition to what has been said, that "lapses" may, and almost certainly do, increase the *average* mortality of the lives who remain assured. The cause is manifest, and has been pointed out by many writers on insurance subjects. The mortality statistics of leading companies show that the benefit of selection is almost *nil* after, say five years.

The Institute of Actuaries has framed a special table, based on the experience of several companies, which proves this to be a fact. If there were no lapses it would not be the case to the same extent. Every company must select its assurers, if it is to succeed, even although the tables on which its calculations are based are framed on the average mortality of the country. If the company did not carefully select, it would very soon find itself selected by a host of bad lives. This tendency has to be constantly guarded against, hence we see such a large percentage of declined lives in every company; not to speak of those who apply indirectly but whose cases could not be entertained at all. As a rule the best lives do not *seek* assurance, nor do they seek to remain assured. Once assured the life has a power of *counter-selection* against the company. He can either withdraw or remain. In the nature of things it will be found that the majority of those who withdrew are good lives; Those who place a low estimate on their chances of life are not likely to withdraw. A company must receive some equivalent for this power of counter selection against it. The remedy adopted is to charge a heavy fine, say 25 to 30 per cent. of surrender value for withdrawal. Even with this check some companies are barely able to keep claims down to the average expectancy with the advance of years.

The *healthy* members of the Mutual Reserve Fund have nothing to lose by discontinuing to pay their assessments; the unhealthy have everything to gain by making prompt payment—their heirs may reap the benefit of the next assessment.

Against such contingencies the Mutual Reserve has no redress, and its members will inevitably feel the injurious effect sooner or later,

Apologising for troubling you with what might perhaps have been put more concisely,

Respectfully yours,

D. H. MACGARVEY.

Halifax, July 23, 1885.

FIRE RECORD.

ONTARIO.—Aylmer,July 13th. W. John's grist mill burned, loss $8,000, insurance $4,300.——Belleville, 18th.—A dwelling occupied by B. Jones, gutted, loss $1,000, insured for $1,800 in N. B. & M.——London, 23rd.——Ferguson's furniture factory, partly destroyed, loss heavy.—— Toronto, 22nd. — The Wellesley school damaged to the extent of $3,000, covered in Imperial.——Erin, 27th.—The barn and contents belonging to Wm. Gamble, burned, loss $1,000, no insurance.——Severn Bridge, 28th.—The Union church totally destroyed.——Belleville, 28th.—A barn belonging to John Thomas, burned, loss, $1,500, insurance $965.

OTHER PROVINCES.—Quebec, 15th.—Marsh & Polley's boot and shoe factory singed, loss covered by insurance.——Montreal, 26th.—Steinson & Co.'s biscuit factory partly burned, loss $25,000, insurance $33,000.——Quebec, 26th.—J. Vernier's drug store gutted, insured in Western for $3,000.——Montreal, 29th.—The Royal Electric Light Co's factory and Mutton & Co's packing box factory burned, the insurance is as follows:—Royal Electric Light Co., N. B. & M. $5,000; Citizens', $5,000; Guardian, $5,000; Western, $2,500; Quebec $2,500; Fire Assoc. $2,500; Royal Canadian $2,500; National $5,000; Nutter loses $6,000, insured for $5,000.——

MANUFACTURER'S NOTES.

Wires and bars are now produced direct from fluid steel, by pressing it out through dies in a manner similar to the production of lead pipes from lead.

Mr. Ellis Lever, of Manchester, Eng., in a letter to the London *Times*, says that it is a national disgrace that during the last thirty years upwards of 40,000 miners have been sacrificed in English mines, and nearly 1,000,000 injured or disabled by accidents, many of which were preventable.

The Manchester Ship Canal bill, on which a fortune has already been spent in Parliamentary proceedings, is once more before the House of Commons. Two years ago, after the House of Commons had passed the bill, the Lords threw it out. Last session the Lords passed it and the Commons rejected it. This year the Lords have again signified their approval, and the promoters are sanguine.

Steel is now produced direct from the ore by a new process of a French engineer. The ore in a powdered condition is submitted to the action of carbonic oxide gas at a high temperature in the cupola or blast furnace, where it is reduced by the incandescent gas to pure iron or steel.

The perfume manufacturers of Nice and Cannes crush 154,000 pounds of orange blossoms, 13,200 pounds of acacia flowers, 154,000 pounds of rose leaves, 35,200 pounds of jasmine blossoms, 22,000 pounds of violets, 8,800 pounds of tuberoses and a relatively large amount of Spanish lilacs, rosemary, mint, lime and lemon blossoms every year.

The wages of wrought nailmakers in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire were last month reduced in some cases 12½ per cent. and in others 22½ per cent. The London *Iron Trade Exchange* is of opinion that unless employers return to the old prices it is expected that the whole of the operatives will turn out. The wages of the most skilful workmen do not amount to more than 9s. or 10s. per week. Thousands of persons dependent upon this industry are almost destitute.

The railroads east from St. Louis have restored passenger rates, and the fare to New York is $20, to Philadelphia $22.75. It costs a Philadelphian, says the *Record*, $2.75 to live ninety miles nearer St. Louis than a New York resident does. He can go from St Louis to New York, pay full fare thence to Philadelphia, and come out twenty-five cents ahead of the man who buys a through ticket to Philadelphia.

A Florida orange-grower writes to a friend as follows: "I want somebody to eat up all my oranges and garden stuff. Last season I shipped eighty crates of oranges and about a carload of truck and melons. My commission merchant at the end of the season sent me a bill of $53.45 to balance accounts. Now, I am not discouraged. This is a lovely country, and I propose to stay here, but, by thunder, I propose to economize. So I want enough good fellows to come down here to eat my stuff and save me the expense of selling it." This is by no means an exceptional case. We know of one grower who after shipping his season's yield, *paid* the commission agent $30 to balance the account.

The foreman in a New York wall paper factory states: "Fashionable people think they are going away back to medieval times, when they have the walls of their libraries and dining-rooms covered with embossed leather. They don't know that the shoes and boots which their neighbors threw into the ash barrel a month before, form the beautiful material on their walls and on the screens which protect their eyes from the fire. I don't know how many other trades use old shoes and boots, but the tops of carriages are largely made of them ground up and pressed into sheets. Bookbinders use them in making the cheapest forms of leather bindings, and the new style of leather frames with leather mats in them are entirely made of the cast-off covering of our feet."

—J. M. Auld, of Charlottetown, shipped 40,000 dozen eggs during the month of June, principally to Boston.

—Mr. A. H. Jackson, in the employ of Scott Bros., Chatham, packed, inside of ten hours, forty barrels of eggs, seventy dozen to the barrel, making in all 33,600 eggs.

—The following companies have been incorporated by the Ontario Government:—The St. Thomas Real Estate Company, capital $50,000; the Fort William Street Railway Company, $20,000: and the Western Ontario Mortgage & Securities Company, capital $500,000, the chief place of business to be in Windsor.

—Better than wheat. "Dear me," she said, as she fidgeted around in the seat, "but I wish I had a little more nerve. Yesterday I drew $200 from the bank to put into wheat, but when I thought of wheat going way up and somebody else losing, and of wheat going way down and my money vanishing away, I couldn't have the courage to place an order." "And you took the money back?" "O, no, no, no! I used it to buy me a poodle."