Notes and Items.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Montreal Clearing House.—Total for week ending June 16, 1904—Clearings, $20,780,941; corresponding week, 1903, $31,320,506; corresponding weeg, 1902, $20,637,707.

Another Chicago Lloyds' has collapsed from taking risks in excess of its strength.

Ottawa Clearing House.—Total for week ending 9th June, 1904—Clearings, $2,296,749; corresponding week last year, $2,338,738.

The Annapolis Valley, N.S., last year, produced half a million barrels of apples that were exported. "Pomona" would be a better name for Canada than "Our Lady of the Snows."

Automobiling Diseases are reported to be exciting the attention of the Faculty. Rapid travelling on these machines is said to develop peculiar forms of nervous diseases, palpitation of the heart, tremors and stomach pains being ordinary symptoms.

The Combined Death and Expense Rate per cent. of mean insurance in force of 26 life companies, from 1884 to 1903 inclusive, is given in a table in "The Spectator," New York. The average 1884 to 1903 is stated as 2.29 per cent. The yearly variation is very small.

A Typographical Joke.—In a recent issue allusion was made to the withdrawal of funds from the Western States, creating certain conditions elsewhere but "not in the West." Those words were set in type to read, "*No tin in the West.*" Cold type is often very humourous.

Earnings of the London Street Railway.—Earnings for the week ending June 4, 1904, $3,673.35; corresponding week, 1903, $3,158.87. Increase $514.68, or 16.2 per cent. Gross revenue for May, 1904, $14,454.44; gross revenue for May 1903, $13,144.76. Increase, $1,309.68, or 9.9 per cent.

The Maryland Casualty has issued to Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company a policy protecting it from all claims for accidents on the Exposition grounds. The premium is based on an estimated attendance of 30,000,000. The "Insurance Monitor," in giving above item says "the premium is $75,000." Can that be correct?

The Standard Bank.—The Standard Bank's annual report shows net profits for the year, $183,007, which, with $14,506 balance brought forward, was appropriated as follows:—Dividends at 10 per cent. per annum, $100,000; added to reserve fund, $75,000; carried forward, $22,513. The reserve fund is now $1,000,000, or equal to paid-up capital.

The United States Steel Corporation is showing signs of having learnt by the experience of others. It has ordered some of its docks at Duluth to be insured. This is opposed to its course hitherto of being its own insurer, its annual statements having an item showing the amount of its insurance fund. The U. S. Steel Corporation would do well to put all its properties under insurance with substantial companies.

Toronto Railway Co.—A special general meeting of the shareholders of the Toronto Railway Co., will be held at the Company's Office, Toronto, on 20th inst. for following purposes:

"To authorize or ratify the taking and acquisition of all or any of the shares, bonds and debentures of The Toronto and Mimico Railway Company, The Toronto and Scarboro Electric Railway, Light and Power Company (Limited), The Metropolitan Railway Company, The Schomberg and Aurora Railway Company, and The Toronto and York Radial Railway Company, or any one or more of such Companies; and to confer upon the Directors powers of dealing therewith, and of guaranteeing the bonds and debentures of the said Companies, or any one or more of them."

Should Women Insure their Lives.—The best friends of insurance are unquestionably women. It is for them that men usually get insured, and thousands of widows have cause to be grateful for the protection which insurance has given them. But until recently women have paid little attention to life insurance as an element in their own lives. This has been undoubtedly due to the fact that woman was for a long time considered by the insurance companies as a greater risk than a man, and higher rates of insurance were asked. Now, however, the leading companies write policies for women at the same rates as for men, and the question whether a life insurance policy is worth a woman's while becomes a matter which affects thousands of women. Especially true is this of the woman who is dependent upon her own exertions for a living, or who has children or others depending upon her.—"Australian Gazette."

Correspondence.

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

NEW YORK STOCK LETTER.

New York, June 15, 1904.

Optimistic sentiment, which a short time ago was conspicuous by its absence, now like the tide, begins to show that it is running to the flood. For some time, sentiment and financial matters generally, have literally been at what in sea faring parlance is termed "slack water," but now the indications are that the tide has turned, and that it will grow in strength and volume as time progresses. Of course, until the political conventions are out of the way there will be more or less uncertainty, but one will be out of the way within the week and the other within three weeks, and it is quite probable that before the second one is held the market will begin to discount the effects of both of them. During the latter part of last week the market began to harden, and on Friday and Saturday it became quite strong, and many of the traders contrary to their usual custom carried over considerable lines of stocks, but on Monday, when they attempted to marmarket them, prices fell off in such a way that the market relapsed into the former dull state. Yesterday, however, it began to gather new energy and broadened out materially before the closing. Quite a number of factors combined to bring about this result. London took a greater interest in this market than it has done in some time, the balance of transactions having been on the buying side, then some of the returns of earnings from the railroads show that the economies instituted some time ago are now beginning to show in the report of operations, and while some of the roads still show decreases, the amounts are by no means as large as they were a short time back, and there is every indication that it will not be long before they will begin to show increases. It is true