LONDON AND WESTERN TRUSTS COMPANY.

This company has passed its eighth year, and has been increasing its business gradually. Its policy is to specialize its work, avoiding all duties but those which properly belong to a trustee. And this bids fair to popularize it among persons who prefer as executor or administrator a trust company which does not go beyond such fiduciary duties as those indicated. The paid capital is now about $140,000, and a reserve of $25,000 has been accumulated. At the close of last year the total assets, capital and trust, had grown to $1,599,000. The result of the year's operations has been a profit sufficient to justify a dividend of five per cent. Among the twenty-five directors are a number of gentlemen well known in south-west Ontario.

LONDON MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

This company is able to say that, in spite of its heavy loss by the conflagration of April last in Toronto, it has met all claims promptly without having to sell any of its debentures, realize on any of its mortgages, call up any extra capital, or borrow any money. This is a source of satisfaction to the management and a credit to the company. We observe, too, that the company has resolved to set aside in the future a substantial sum to provide a special conflagration fund. This is prudent, for in these blazing days there is no telling where a conflagration will start next. The receipts of the year were $544,883, which amount was pretty well absorbed by the $402,904 of fire losses and the expenses which accompanied them. The company has $143,000 cash assets on hand, besides other assets and $380,000 of unassessed premium notes. It shows a good surplus over all liabilities, including re-insurance reserve.

UNION LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

That there was room for this company, and that it is doing an active industrial business, is shown by the figures of its 1904 report. In the first year they wrote a million and a half, in the second year had almost four millions in force, and this year they have $5,087,000 in force. The income in 1903 was $172,713; in 1904 it was brought up to $242,189; the claims and expenses, $206,174, left enough to make the net ledger assets, $151,?350, as compared with $115,336 a year ago. Considering the age of the company, this is doing very well, and implies that there must have been some "hustling" done by the agents.

DRY GOODS NOTES.

Henry Morgan & Co., the Montreal dry goods merchants, have purchased practically the whole block in the rear of their present premises. The price was about $200,000, and buildings will be erected, it is said, at a cost of $1,000,000.

H. Vineberg & Co., wholesale clothing manufacturers, Montreal, have bought a large site, on which they will erect a large additional factory at a cost of $75,000, to employ 400 hands. They will probably also generate their own electricity for power and lighting purposes. Two floors of the building, we understand, will be occupied as a clothing factory for the Hart Manufacturing Co.

The Montreal Cotton Co. held their annual meeting a few days ago, and re-elected the following directors: S. H. Ewing, H. Markland Molson, A. Hamilton Gault, R. R. Stevenson, Jacques Grenier, James Rodger, the Hon. J. K. Ward. At a subsequent meeting, Mr. S. H. Ewing was re-elected president, and Mr. H. Markland Molson, vice-president. The reports presented were considered very satisfactory.

Reports from Paris state that the chief changes of colors for the coming season will have regard rather to shades than to tints. Green, purple, red and pink will be most prominent, while brown will continue in favor, with a still wider range of shades, including hazel, chestnut and a cinnamon shade called "cannelle." Greens will include grass green, an oak-leaf tint, spinach green, and, among the lighter shades, apple green. The purple shades, which will include "petunia," will run rather to red than to blue, and closely resemble those colors lately known as "orchids." Higher grades of blue will replace the indistinct shades, and, in fact, the whole tendency is a gradual movement towards those higher grades of coloring. The same motive is encouraging the use of the glossy materials in light-weight cloth, and the term "foulard satin" is being introduced to describe some of these materials, and "supple" cloths promise to become widely known.

—The annual statement of the Eastern Trust Company was laid before the shareholders at the meeting of the company on Tuesday of last week. Owing to the rapid increase of business it was found necessary to double the capital, the additional $250,000 being nearly wholly taken up by present shareholders. The securities and investments now held by this concern amount to over $3,500,000.

—The seventh annual convention of the Associated Boards of Trade of Eastern British Columbia opens at Nelson this week. The chief subjects being discussed are the municipal ownership of telephones; good roads for the Flathead Valley; the appointment of an expert to report on the zinc resources of the province; the establishment of fruit experimental stations on the lines of the Canadian Pacific and Great Northern Railroads; the creation by the Dominion Government of a Department of Mines to be presided over by a Minister selected from the parliamentary representatives of British Columbia.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Duncan Macdonald, ex-mayor of Virden, Man., and others, are making a move to establish a meat-packing industry at that place, run by local capital.

The vegetable growers in the vicinity of Toronto and Hamilton have decided to form a Provincial association on the lines of the fruit-growers', dairymen's and such organizations. Millions of dollars are invested in the industry.

The tomato growers of Niagara district are waging a controversy with the Amalgamated Canners' Association over the question of prices. The growers claim they will not grow tomatoes for less then 30c. per bushel, instead of 25c., the price they have been receiving in the past. The canners refuse to comply, stating they will be able to obtain all they want at their own price. The farmers announce their intention of growing other products, rather than give in.

The Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association held their annual meeting last week in Toronto, and gave their unanimous approval to a proposal by Mr. F. W. Hodson for the nationalizing of the stock records of Canada. They also passed a resolution, asking the Government to regulate the importation of pure-bred stock. The following officers were elected: President, Alex. Smith, Maple Lodge; vice-president, Lieut.-Col. McGillivray; secretary-treasurer, A. P. Westervelt.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of the Canadian Clearing Houses for the week ended with Thursday, February 23rd, 1905, as compared with those of the previous week:

	Feb. 23.	Feb. 16.
Montreal	$22,461,033	$20,976,205
Toronto	16,973,992	18,540,743
Winnipeg	4,901,596	4,950,093
Halifax	1,115,069	1,522,040
Hamilton	1,221,954	1,036,738
St. John	815,796	812,837
Vancouver	1,299,674	1,218,732
Victoria	488,973	565,522
Quebec	1,375,844	1,048,340
Ottawa	2,000,556	1,938,782
London	761,205	780,130
Total	$53,415,692	$53,386,162