

ing to \$1,254,325; new insurance issued, \$1,116,825; and new insurance taken, \$1,002,100. The income for the year was \$160,309, as compared with \$147,016 in the previous year.

FIRE INSURANCE.

The report for the year 1905 of the Montreal Fire Alarm Department gives some interesting particulars. Superintendent Ferns tells us in his annual report the classes of buildings in which fires occurred during the year, and also the work done by the different fire stations in the city. Four hundred and eighty fires broke out in dwelling houses, 72 in sheds, 48 in stables, and 25 in new buildings in course of erection. Two fires occurred in fire stations, two in ice houses, one in a police station, one in a theatre. Destruction of a hen house by flames is included in the records. St. Denis ward had few fires during the year, and the men of No. 18 station only used five streams and 11 hand extinguishers. Chemical engines were used seven times. The water-towers were used nine times.

DRY GOODS.

A corporation has been organized in Nova Scotia, under the title of Stanfields, Limited, with a capital of \$750,000 for the purpose of acquiring the plant and assets, including patents, trade marks, good-will, etc., of the Truro Knitting Mills Company, Limited, and also to establish extensive worsted yarn mills. The two industries would be carried on together, one feeding the other. The new yarn mill will be of brick, and is to be erected either on Salmon River or on the Intercolonial Railway at the west end of the town. The underwear made by this old mill finds market in every part of the Dominion. John Stanfield and Frank Stanfield, of the old company, will remain as managers, the former as president of the new company, and the latter as vice-president and treasurer, and they will hold a controlling interest in the company. Associated with them on the board of directors are John Y. Payzant, president of the Bank of Nova Scotia, and Geo. S. Campbell, and J. Walter Allison, directors of the same bank.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

McLarens', Limited, has been granted by the Ontario Government a charter authorizing it to manufacture, grind and deal in coffees, spices, jelly powders, etc. It will also take over the business of the Hamilton Coffee and Spice Co. in Hamilton, Ont. The capital authorized is \$200,000.

A disappointing state of things is reported from South Africa in regard to Canadian fruit. The quality of recent shipments of apples to Cape Colony has been so bad that they are in danger, it is authoritatively said, of being excluded altogether from that country. In a communication, dated December 20th, to the Trade and Commerce Department, Mr. Kittson, Canadian Trade Agent, states that a recent shipment of Canadian apples consigned to Cape Town, was upon arrival found to be seriously infested by scab, and also by codlin moth, some barrels to the extent of 60 per cent. in case of the former, and 40 per cent. in case of the latter. He points out that Canadian shippers were warned that fruit so affected was liable to confiscation on arrival, without compensation to shippers or consignees. It is hopeless for Canadians to attempt to work up large export trade, if such methods as these are employed.

According to an American authority, the pack of corn last year in the United States and Canada was the largest on record, amounting to 13,418,665 cases, of which 400,000 are credited to Canada, compared with 11,462,969 cases, with 300,000 of them Canadian, in the previous year, which itself was a very good year. This heavy output of 1904 was the result of a light production in the three preceding years, which forced prices up to extreme figures, New York State

No. 2 standard selling in 1903 and 1904 up to \$1.25, and not lower than 90 cents in the first named year, nor 80 cents in 1904. The report says: "These prices made corn packing a highly profitable industry, and naturally tended to stimulate production. Poor crops in several States in 1902-3 kept down the output to a quantity not large enough to care for requirements, unless consumption was checked by high prices. This year the corn crop was very large and conditions favorable, so that nearly every factory was worked to its full capacity, resulting in a total pack of 13,418,665 cases, against 11,462,969 cases in 1904.

—We understand that the annual meeting of the Toronto Clearing House is to be held on Thursday p.m. It is likely we shall have gone to press before its proceedings are made public, but we have been made aware by the manager that the deposits of the Clearing House thus far in 1906 show an increase at the rate of a quarter of a million annually. That is to say the clearing for fifteen week days this year have aggregated \$67,616,711, as compared with \$54,697,232 in the same period of 1905.

—It is stated that a contract has just been made for the shipment of 300,000 cords of pulp wood from New Brunswick to United States mills, this being the first lot to take that direction in any quantity. The attention of the Tariff Commission is being drawn to the waste, so far as Canadian industry is concerned, which ensues from the export of pulp in its raw state, when it is worth approximately \$5 per cord, when the finished product would be worth \$29 per ton. A good many people think there is a fine opening for an export duty on Canadian pulp.

—A very good ratio of earnings is shown by the Merchants Bank of Prince Edward Island, whose paid capital is \$350,400. Its net earnings for the year 1905 were \$56,788, besides which there was \$5,061 received as premium on new stock. Eight per cent. dividend was paid and \$35,000 added to the Rest, which now exceeds \$300,000. The bank has a million in deposits; a circulation of \$312,964 at close of November last. Its total assets are \$2,036,010, of which current loans form \$1,639,440. The Merchants Bank of Prince Edward Island has its head office in Charlottetown and branches in Alberton, Montserrat, Souris and Summerside on the Island and at Sydney, Cape Breton.

—Bank clearings in London last year were phenomenal. The "Economist," of 6th January, says that the secretary of the Bankers' Clearing House has published the totals of the clearings for the past year, the figures again establishing a series of records for the year, for a month, and a day. "Not only, however, is the total for the year the largest ever recorded, but the increase as compared with the previous year is greater than the difference between any two previous years. The clearings amount to the enormous total of £12,287,935,000, which compares with £10,564,007,000 for 1904, and thus shows an increase of £1,723,738,000, equal to 16.3 per cent." Clearings for 1903 were 10,119 millions, and for 1902 nearly the same, and for 1901 they were 9,569 millions.

—Among the enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the Canadian Government office first week of January, 1906, are: An engineering firm making steam engines, boilers, lifting machinery, motor wagons, for one or two firms in Canada with good connections, who would push the sale of such goods. A London firm of gold and silver beaters make enquiry respecting the market in Canada for gold leaf and powder, silver, platinum and bronze powder, gold size, etc. A provision merchant of Derby has requested to be placed in touch with Canadian manufacturers of egg boxes to hold 360 and 180 each. The Bishopsgate Street branch tells of a London firm making Japanese silk embroidery novelties who would sell to Canadian manufacturers of children's millinery. A Midlands company making pumps is prepared to appoint suitable Canadian resident agent. A London firm