

Mar. 6.—"The Progress of Fire Protection," P. H. Sims. "Practical Working of the Automatic Non-Forfeiture Provision in Life Assurance Policies," W. H. Hill.

April 2.—"Policy Phraseology in Personal Accident Contracts," A. L. Eastmure. Paper on a Life Subject, by J. H. Brock.

The officers for this year are: resident, T. Bradshaw F. I. A.; vice-president, P. H. Sims; general secretary, J. K. Pickett, assistant secretary, J. A. Shaw; treasurer, J. Maughan, assistant treasurer, W. H. Hall; curator, C. C. Foster; assistant curator, J. M. Bascom.

THE SOVERIGN BANK OF CANADA.

This new bank has issued a statement of the bank's position as on 31st October last, on which date its first-half year was completed. The following is a condensed exhibit of the bank's assets and liabilities at close of the half-year compared with its position after being in operation between 1st and 31st May:—

	31st May, 1902.	31st Oct., 1902.
Assets.	\$	\$
Cash on hand and bank balances.....	206,842	378,070
Deposit to secure circulation.....	5,000	5,027
Bonds and stocks.....	20,922	439,363
Loans and discounts.....	912,134	2,988,668
Bank premises, etc.....	8,655	44,075
	\$1,153,553	\$3,855,203
Liabilities.		
Capital paid up.....	740,711	1,173,478
Reserve Fund.....	110,100	240,000
Circulation.....	55,895	759,995
Deposits.....	246,947	1,681,730
	\$1,153,553	\$3,855,203

The bank has 16 branches open. The general manager, Mr. D. M. Stewart, is working energetically to acquire good business.

CANADA'S GROWTH IN LAST FIVE YEARS.

The advance being made by Canada is exciting great interest in the old country and United States. A reference made by this journal a short time ago to the growth of deposits in the banks was copied by a leading Boston paper, then it appeared in a New York financial organ, thence it was transferred to other papers, and at last came out in a Montreal daily. As the matter is manifestly of much public interest, we give more complete statistics showing the progress of Canada in last five years.

Increase of the foreign trade since 1897.....	\$166,741,582
Percentage of increase in 5 years.....	65.00 p. cent.
Increase of deposits in Chartered Banks.....	181,812,660
Percentage of increase in 5 years.....	84.40 p. cent.
Increase of deposits in Gov't Savings Banks.....	9,969,906
Percentage of increase in 5 years.....	20.40 p. cent.
Increase of discounts in banks since 1897.....	141,171,651
Percentage of increase in 5 years.....	68.00 p. cent.
Increase of bank notes in circulation since 1897.....	24,348,045
Percentage of increase in 5 years.....	58.56 p. cent.
Increase of Government notes in circulation.....	10,845,872
Percentage of increase in 5 years.....	46.66 p. cent.
Total amount on deposits in Chartered Banks, Gov't Banks, Savings Banks and Loan Companies.....	494,220,327

The following totals are according to the latest

returns:	Bank deposits.	Gov't Bank deposits.	Savings Bk. deposits.
Foreign trade.			
\$423,910,44	\$397,178,892	\$58,799,905	\$20,681,530
Loan Co. deposits.	Discounts.	Circulation.	Gov't notes in circulation
\$17,560,000	\$349,657,291	\$65,928,973	\$34,084,579

For $5\frac{1}{4}$ millions of people to have increased their trade and resources in five years to such an enormous extent as is shown by above data is a fact without parallel; proportionately, the above increases exceed those made by any country in the world.

THE ALDERMEN AND THE HEALTH OF THE CITY.

As is not unusual at this season of the year scarlet fever is becoming prevalent in Montreal and as usual the city is utterly unprepared to cope properly with the situation thus created. The Civic Hospital is not available for scarlet fever cases, being required for small-pox patients. A couple of cottages on Mount Royal Av, formerly used by park officials, contain twenty-six beds, all of which are now occupied, and the Royal Victoria Hospital has an isolation ward which is available for a few more patients. There are many other cases scattered about the city. These and any new cases that may develop will have to be left in their homes, in many instances, no doubt, to form separate centres of contagion. Every epidemic finds us practically in the same condition and as is perfectly well known, a scarlet fever epidemic is by no means a remote contingency in any autumn or winter in Montreal.

We doubt if there is any other city in the world of the size, wealth, and importance of Montreal in which such a state of affairs is allowed to go on year after year. Yet there is nothing in the natural conditions prevailing in Montreal to make the problem one of exceptional difficulty. Prima facie, it would seem to be a very simple thing for a city like this to provide itself with a suitable hospital for the treatment of contagious diseases; it would also seem to be one of the essentials of the city's existence. There can be no doubt as to those upon whom rests the responsibility of finding a solution of the problem. While every citizen is free to have and to express his opinions upon the subject, the responsibility of dealing with it rests absolutely upon the City Council. For the aldermen to acknowledge themselves incapable of dealing with the matter satisfactorily would be a strange confession of incapacity. Yet apparently the explanation of the present situation must be either aldermanic incapacity or aldermanic indifference to an issue of vital public importance. Were our civic affairs administered on the party system, the hospital would have been running