## Financial and General Items.

THE DEATH OF MR. A. L. DAVIS, president of the Imperial Guarantee & Accident Company, occurred at his home in Toronto, this week, after an illness of several weeks' duration. Mr. Davis was for many years prominently identified with the business life of Peterboro', of which he was three times elected Mayor, before removing to Toronto, some five years ago, to organize and assume the mangement of the company named. Mr. Davis was a son-in-law of Senator George A. Cox, having some years ago married his eldest daughter, who survives him. The sympathy of a wide circle of friends and business associates will be extended to the bereaved relatives.

THE COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, has taken possession of the handsome building which it purchased from the Sovereign Bank this year, on St. James St., Montreal. The head offices for Canada, are located on the first floor, and afford ample accommodation for the company's large business. The fittings and interior arrangements are up to date. Two large vaults are a special feature. One of which is built of steel and measures about 15 feet x 15 ft. The manager's office (Mr. James McGregor) is in the front of the building, as are also the superintendent's, inspectors' and agents'.

THE RETIRING DIRECTORATE was re-elected at the annual meeting of the Dominion Iron & Steel Company yesterday. President Plummer announced that by a change made in the deed of trust relating to the company's bond issue, bonds issued from time to time will only be for capital expenditure. What is now in view is the issue of $5,000,000 of bonds, out of the proceeds of which the remaining second mortgage bonds will be paid off and the additions and extensions of the plant paid for.

THE WALL STREET INVESTIGATION COMMISSION'S report to Governor Hughes was made public yesterday. The commission finds that while there is need of regulation, any effort to abolish speculation in securities and commodities would do more harm than good. The commission recommends several laws, mainly along the line of clarifying or strengthening existing laws which bear on the matter of speculation.

WESTERN CROP PROSPECTS are still reported as being all that could be desired. Wheat acreage in the three Western grain provinces may amount to 7,800,000 acres. Ontario and Quebec farm reports have shown marked improvement of late.

FIRE AT THE GREAT WEST SADDLERY COMPANY'S WAREHOUSE, Winnipeg, did damage yesterday morning to the extent of $300,000. The value of the structure and stock is given as $775,000, there being $350,000 insurance carried.

NO FEWER THAN FOUR FIRMS suffered damage last night by apparently separate fires that broke out within an hour of each other in two adjoining buildings in St. Nicholas, near St. Paul Street, Montreal.

THE SS. HARMONIC, of the Northern Navigation Co., the largest vessel on the Upper Lakes, made her initial trip on Saturday last from Collingwood, Ont.