SWINDLING ENTERPRISES.—In this city and other cities a scheme is being very extensively advertized by circulars that are chiefly addressed to domestic servants, and those of this class. Whoever parts with money under this scheme should give it an affectionate farewell, for it will never be seen again.

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HONOUR TO WHOM HONOUR IS DUE.—His Majesty King Edward VII. has conferred upon Lord Mount-Stephen the grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order. At the investiture by the King in person the Earl of Clarendon, chancellor of the Order was present. The magnificent gift of $1,000,000 to the King's Hospital Fund by Lord Mount-Stephen no doubt led to its being recognized by the conference of this distinction.

A Canadian has set the nobility and financial magnates of England an example, which, were they to follow, even at a considerable distance in the rear, not the King's Hospital Fund only, but scores of other most deserving enterprises of a philanthropic nature, would be richly provided with all needful funds.

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U. S. NATIONAL BANKS.—The following shows the position of the National Bank of the United States as reported by "The American Banker," with the figures for an approximate date, 1903:

	Jan. 11, 1905.	Jan. 22, 1903.
Number banks	5,528	5,180
	$	$
Loans and discounts	3,728,166,086	3,469,195,044
Due other National banks	753,851,539	692,737,731
Due State banks and bankers	312,837,450	293,840,488
Due trust companies and savings banks	426,334,365	302,100,678
Due reserve banks	41,564,508	34,237,677
Individual deposits	3,612,499,592	3,300,619,898
U. S. deposits	97,417,634	155,399,161
Deposits disbursing officers	8,976,352	7,895,620
Specie	491,849,030	253,191,553
Legal tenders	178,122,523	161,434,599
Total cash	669,971,553	614,626,15

Between January, 1903, and January, 1904, there were 348 new National banks established in the United States, whose average capital was much smaller than that of the smallest bank in Canada. In the past two years these banks have added $311,879,700 to their "individual deposits," deposits, that is, apart from those of the Government, and increased their loans and discounts to extent of $258,971,042. The increase of deposits being $52,908,658 greater than the increase in loans and discounts seems to indicate that the accumulation of money is going on in the States at a faster rate than the growth of demand for bank accommodation, as it is in Canada and in England.

MONTREAL CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending February 9, 1905—Clearings, $22,106,661; corresponding week, 1904, $17,673,774; 1903, $18,271,187.

FIRE INSURANCE BUSINESS IN CANADA, 1904.

On a later page in this issue is published a table of Fire Insurance Business in Canada for the year 1904. The exhibit was not expected to be satisfactory, as the past year had an especially disastrous record for conflagrations and numerous large fires.

At the last moment we were unable to get the figures of a few of the companies, but nevertheless we consider it desirable not to hold the table over any longer, as it is a matter of importance that the result should be known as soon as possible.

A glance at the figures will more than justify the increase in rates which the companies recently put into operation.

We shall refer to the subject more fully in our next issue.

Notes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending February 2, 1905—Clearings, $2,131,253; corresponding week last year, $1,742,504.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE, has opened a branch at Melfort, Saskatchewan. This makes the number of its branches, 113.

THE UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION has urged on the authorities of Windsor, Ont., that a thorough improvement in the fire protection of that city is urgently needed.

SPRINKLERED RISKS.—The New England Exchange has voted down a proposition to allow term insurance on commercial sprinklered risks in its territory. The practice is allowed by the Boston Board of Underwriters.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, on 26th ult., had a snowstorm which tied up the street car and other traffic most of the day. Montreal has had no such experience this winter, our Street Railway manages to keep its cars running under worse conditions than block them in some other cities.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE has recently purchased property in the city of Toronto with a view to opening three new branches. The locations are Queen Street, Parkdale; the corner of College Street and Dovercourt road; and corner of Bloor Street and Lansdowne avenue. Building operations will be commenced in the spring.

THE PROVIDENT SAVINGS LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY'S annual statement gives the premium income in 1904 as $3,659,297, the receipts from rents, $261,262, and from interest, etc., $451,161, making the total income $4,371,721. The assets amounts to $8,037,404, the reserve fund, as determined by the New York Insurance Department, $6,951,961; policy claims, proofs incomplete and all other liabilities, $222,470, the balance being $862,973, as reserve for all other contingencies.