MONTREAL CLEARING HOUSE.

	Clearings. $	Balances. $
Total for week ending		
9 Aug.... 1900,	13,407,909	1,970,253
Corresponding week...1899,	14,928,646	2,146,376
" " .1898,	13,650,266	1,686,248
" " .1897,	11,180,649	1,671,212

Notes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

NEW CAPITALIZATIONS IN LONDON.—According to the London "Times" the amount of new capital issued during the six months ending June 30, 1900, was £74,156,075 by subscription and £7,490,875 by tender, a total of £81,646,950. Of this total £30,000,000 was the national war loan. The bulk of the new capitalizations were British industrial concerns. The largest of these creations were the Wall Paper Manufacturers, Limited, which has an authorized capitalization of £4,200,000; the British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association £2,000,000 authorized, and Frederick Leyland & Co. £3,300,000. There were comparatively few mining and railroad issues.

A FAMILY POSSESSION.—Discoursing on the long-vexed "deceased wife's sister" question, the Baltimore "Herald" thus philosophizes: "A good husband is an institution to be cherished and guarded. The benedict who has proved his worth in the course of a practical matrimonial experience constitutes a highly valuable asset, which the deceased wife's sister should be encouraged to keep in the family. On the other hand, the man, being largely a creature of habit,and having in the course of years adapted himself to the methods of his wife, should not be compelled to pass through a period of unsettlement and readjustment, when bereft of his helpmeet, by marrying into another family. He should enjoy the tenor of his way without the destruction involved in establishing himself in the esteem of a brand new set of relatives."

OUR EXCELLENT FIRE PATROL.—The record of the New York Fire Patrol during the last six months of heavy fire loss says the New York "Commercial Bulletin," shows what excellent results can be achieved by a small, well-disciplined force, under intelligent supervision. With scarcely a handful of men, distributed at five stations, the work has been so systematized that the patrol reaches a fire in the dry goods district or at the financial centre within a minute or so after the alarm is turned in. Such dispatch is of great importance, since fire protection in congested districts is now a question of seconds not minutes. The force is managed on business principles,, with rigid discipline. Where a man is charged with wrong-doing, he is accorded a hearing and allowed to explain his side of the case; if found guilty, he is summarily dealt with. This rule of fair treatment is apreciated by the men, and has raised the efficiency of the service to a point where its usefulness attracts general attention, and it has become the model for patrol systems of other cities to pattern after. While the patrol is designed to protect property rather than life, its members frequently perform acts of great bravery for which medals are awarded. With no pension feature to attract long service, and pay of only $800, $900, and $1,000 a year in the ranks, many of the men devote their lives to the work, in the knowledge that the system is conducted on the merit basis, without regard for "pulls" or influences peculiar to the spoils method of "negotiating" promotions.

PERSONALS.

Mr. G. H. Meldrum returned to Montreal from a visit to Great Britain on Monday last.

Mr. E. S. Clouston, general manager of the Bank of Montreal, has sailed for England, and will be absent for several weeks.

Mr. John Pitblado, manager of the Montreal branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia, is holiday-making in Prince Edward Island.

Mr. H. C. McLeod, general manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia, has returned to Toronto. His new yacht, "Gloria," attracted much attention on her passage up the river, and was greatly admired by those who visited her at Montreal yesterday.

Mr. E. P. Heaton, manager for Canada of the Guardian Assurance Company, sailed for England per the S.S. Tunisian on the 4th inst. He will be absent for 6 or 8 weeks. He intends combining business with pleasure. He is accompanied by Mr. W. G. Black, who represents the Guardian at Ottawa. We wish these gentlemen a very pleasant voyage.

Vice President Johnson, of the Penn. Mutual Life, accompanied by Ellwood Johnson, Chairman of the agency committee, and Henry C. Lippincott, manager of agencies, are paying a visit to some of our Canadian cities, with a view of introducing the Penn. Mutual to the Dominion. This Company was established in 1847, and is looked upon as one of the solid, conservative American Companies. Its total assets on December 31st amounted to over $39,000,000; surplus $5,000,000; total insurance in force over $185,000,000; new business written during the year 1889, $39,000,000.

Mr. H. M. Lambert, who has recently been appointed assistant manager of the Atlas Assurance Company, at the head office for Canada, Montreal, received his early training in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and London. He came to Canada in 1893 as inspector for the Atlas. Two years later he was appointed local manager for Manitoba and North-West Territories, of the Atlas and Guardian Insurance Companies, in which capacity he has acquired a thorough knowledge of the western business, and has for a considerable time acted as president of the Winnipeg Board of Underwriters. Mr. Lambert has received his present appointment owing to the extension of the operations of the Atlas Assurance Company throughout the Dominion.