

VISIT OF MR. A. J. RELTON.

Mr. A. J. Relton, of London, Eng., fire manager of the Guardian Assurance Co., arrived in Montreal on the 9th. inst., having reached Victoria by the "Empress of India" a week earlier. He left for New York on Monday evening last, whence he sails for home by the "Oceanic." Mr. Relton left London a little over five months ago, and has during that period visited the Branches of the Guardian in the far East, including India, China and Japan, where the Company transacts a large business. It will be remembered by the readers of THE CHRONICLE that over a year ago he visited South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand in the interests of his Company. There are very few parts of the globe that he has not visited. Probably his next trip will be to South America.

The Guardian under the management of Mr. H. M. Lambert is transacting a large and growing business in the Dominion. It has within the last few years erected one of the handsomest buildings in the City of Montreal, and one which is a credit to the Company and the City. The building ranks amongst the most convenient and best equipped in the City, and we believe there are not more than one or two offices unoccupied at the present moment.

CANADIAN BANKERS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Executive Council of the Canadian Bankers' Association was held at the Bank of Montreal, on the 14th inst. Amongst those in attendance were: E. S. Clouston, Bank of Montreal; B. E. Walker, Bank of Commerce; H. Stikeman, Bank of British North American; Thomas Fyshe, Merchants Bank; Thos. Elliot, Molsons Bank; D. Coulson, Bank of Toronto; George Burn, Bank of Ottawa; T. G. Brough, Dominion Bank; Jas. Mackinnon, Eastern Townships Bank; H. S. Strathy, Traders' Bank; W. B. Torrance (proxy), Royal Bank; J. A. Richardson (proxy), Imperial Bank; L. DeGuise (proxy), Banque Nationale. We understand that among the subjects discussed was the collection and export of American silver, a matter to which the Minister of Finance is giving attention. The affairs of the Bank of Yarmouth were reported to be on a deplorable state, and as the association is empowered to deal therewith the results of their work will be watched with much interest.

SOVEREIGN FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The above company has been granted incorporation, with an authorized capital of \$2,000,000, to carry on the business of fire assurance with head office in Toronto. Among those mentioned as interested in the company are Messrs. William Dineen and Robert E. Menzie, both of Toronto.

The subscribed capital is to be paid up in full in three years.

QUERIES' COLUMN.

In order to furnish our readers with information we propose to devote this column to replies to correspondents. Letters should be addressed to "THE CHRONICLE, Enquiry Department, Montreal."

Answers will only be given to such communications as bear the writer's name, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and only to questions referring to matters of general interest in regard to which the Editor of Queries' Column will exercise his own discretion.

1424.—H. B. J., Toronto.—The Trinidad Electric Company year ends on 31st December. The last statement shows earnings for the year of \$201,842.27 from which after deducting bond interest and operating expenses, there is shown net earnings of \$82,722.63. The dividend on the common stock at 5 p.c. per annum absorbed \$53,250. Directors' fees \$3,000, and \$26,472.63 was carried to surplus account which now amounts to \$82,394.49.

1425.—O. B. W., Halifax.—The statement of the Toledo Railway & Light Company for the year ending 31st December, 1904, shows gross earnings of \$1,753,833.67 and nett earnings of \$829,624.88, the amount applicable to common stock shows 2.75 p.c. on the \$12,000,000 capital, as compared with 2.66 p.c. earned in 1903.

CANADIAN FIRE UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION.

The usual monthly meeting of the C. F. U. A. was held in Montreal, on the 15th and 16th instant. Mr. Alfred Wright, president of the association, in the chair. Good progress was reported in the completion of special schedules regulating manufacturing risks, and it is expected they will be completed in the course of a month.

The following Western members were in attendance: Alfred Wright (president), J. J. Kenny, P. H. Sims, H. M. Blackburn, J. B. Laidlaw, T. D. Richardson and A. K. Pringle.

MONTREAL INSURANCE INSTITUTE.

A largely attended meeting was held last night at the Montreal Insurance Institute, when a most interesting paper was read by Mr. J. B. Laidlaw, entitled "Lessons from Conflagrations." Mr. Laidlaw reviewed the history of great fires, as far back as the great conflagration in 1666, which wrought such havoc in London, England. Other great conflagrations were also referred to. Mr. Laidlaw stated that these disasters had been of periodic occurrence, and that conditions must be changed to prevent repetition of past history.

We shall refer to the meeting at greater length in our next issue.