

FEBRUARY BANK CLEARINGS.

The Canadian clearings for the month of February, 1907, show an increase over the same month in 1906, of 2.4 per cent. and for the two months of January and February the gain reaches 5.1 p.c.

	1907	1906	Inc. or Dec. p.c.
Clearings at—			
Montreal.....	\$107,654,099	\$121,910,224	— 11.7
Toronto.....	91,039,861	88,736,612	× 2.6
Winnipeg.....	35,177,990	26,272,887	× 33.3
Ottawa.....	10,575,758	8,885,325	× 19.0
Vancouver.....	12,601,515	7,563,087	× 74.5
Halifax.....	6,183,544	6,758,412	— 8.5
Quebec.....	6,713,126	6,131,620	× 9.5
Hamilton.....	6,108,414	4,782,286	× 27.7
St. John.....	4,486,578	4,112,407	× 9.1
London.....	4,526,181	4,044,435	× 11.9
Victoria.....	3,750,822	2,888,017	× 29.8
Calgary.....	5,229,950	*	
Edmonton.....	3,286,615	*	
Total.....	\$288,177,787	\$282,285,312	× 2.4

	1907	1906	Inc. or Dec. p.c.
Clearings at—			
Montreal.....	\$235,848,788	\$251,325,637	— 6.1
Toronto.....	206,960,650	198,493,980	× 4.3
Winnipeg.....	79,795,277	61,709,135	× 28.8
Ottawa.....	23,513,933	19,273,964	× 22.0
Vancouver.....	26,003,968	15,855,805	× 64.0
Halifax.....	14,841,115	15,382,885	— 3.5
Quebec.....	14,904,769	13,746,675	× 8.5
Hamilton.....	13,110,234	11,120,111	× 17.9
St. John.....	10,254,590	9,514,105	× 7.8
London.....	10,299,078	9,097,632	× 13.2
Victoria.....	7,660,331	6,405,451	× 19.6
Calgary.....	10,806,065	*	
Edmonton.....	6,634,975	*	
Total.....	\$643,195,733	\$611,995,380	× 5.1

× Increase. — Decrease.

* Not included in total.

ACCIDENT UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA.

The regular semi-annual meeting of the Accident Underwriters' Associations was held in Montreal yesterday, when a good deal of routine business was attended to.

The following Members were present: Messrs. R. I. Griffin (Employers), A. L. Eastmaire (Ontario Accident), Frank Russell (Railway Passengers), John Emo (Canadian Railway), T. H. Hudson (Canada Accident), J. W. Mackenzie (Maryland Casualty), E. Willans (Imperial Guarantee), and Wm. Hedges (Accident & Guarantee Company).

INCENDIARISM TO DEFRAUD the insurer has lessened by more than half since Ohio's fire marshal department was organized seven years ago. In early years of the fire marshal department a majority of all cases of incendiarism were to defraud. This class during the last year was but one-fifth the whole number. In 1906 six persons were convicted of burning to defraud and two of these, a husband and wife, were guilty in one fire. There were no failures to convict for this cause.

Prominent Topics

Affecting Shipping Interests.

At a recent meeting representing Montreal shipping interests, a set of resolutions was drawn up urging the necessity of a drydock capable of taking care of ocean and inland vessels. These recommendations have since been put in the hands of the Harbour Commissioners. They advocate that the dock be constructed in the vicinity between Laurier Pier and Longue Pointe and that it be one thousand feet long so that it may be divided into sections and thus accommodate more than one vessel at a time. The building of such a dock would place Canada in a premier position with regard to docking facilities.

Another matter of direct importance to Montreal is one touched upon in the recently issued annual report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. Mr. F. W. Cowie, superintending engineer of the St. Lawrence ship channel, has reported to the Department upon the practical completion during the year of the 30-foot channel between Montreal and Batiscan. The minimum width of this channel is 450 feet. The necessary widening has been completed except for a 12-mile stretch in Lake St. Peter. The departmental report notes that during 1906 the total losses between Quebec and Montreal, including salvage assistance, did not amount to more than \$1,000, a result commented upon as a plain indication of the safety of the route.

Assistant Actuary of Manufacturers' Life.

The growth of the Manufacturers' Life Insurance Company during recent years is indicated somewhat by the steady increase rendered necessary in its head office staff. At present the company's actuary, Mr. P. C. H. Papps, A.I.A., has under his direction a staff of twenty-five, of whom four are associates either of the Institute of Actuaries or of the Actuarial Society. A recent promotion, and one well merited, is that of Mr. J. B. McKechnie, M.A., A.I.A., to the position of assistant actuary. Mr. McKechnie is an honour graduate in mathematics of Queens' University and took a high standing in the examination which entitled him to his degree of Associate of the Institute of Actuaries. He is also an Associate of the Actuarial Society of America. Mr. McKechnie is well known to insurance circles owing to his having been Secretary of the Insurance Institute of Toronto for the years 1905-6.

Wall Street.

What the next hour might bring forth in Wall Street has during this week been impossible to forecast at any time. The drastic readjustment of values and frenzied decline in prices reached almost a panic, but up to the time of going to press, no failures were reported.