BANK CLEARINGS IN THE UNITED STATES.—Bank exchanges this week at all leading cities in the United States aggregate $2,401,037,022, a loss of only 3.5 per cent. as compared with the same week last year and a gain of 0.9 per cent. over the corresponding week two years ago. In marked contrast to the returns for many previous weeks the greatest loss is made by the cities outside New York, the decrease at that centre being only 2.0 per cent compared with last year, against 17.4 per cent. last week and 11.8 per cent. two weeks ago, while the total of outside cities is smaller by 6.6 per cent. as compared with increases of 0.3 and 3.2 per cent., respectively. Except at Baltimore, Pittsburg, St Louis, New Orleans and San Francisco, the volume of bank clearings is smaller at every point, and it is entirely due to the improvement at New York city that the total for the week makes a better exhibit. The result of the increased operations at the latter city also results in an improved daily average, which for February to date is much more satisfactory than in the two previous months. Average daily bank exchanges for the year to date are compared below for three years:

	1910-1911.	1909-1910.	1908-1909.
February. . .	$501,547,000	$549,946,000	$459,066,000
January. . . .	510,680,000	622,403,000	506,644,000
December. . .	470,039,000	548,703,000	506,644,000

CANADIAN CONSOLIDATED RUBBER COMPANY.—The net income for 1910 of this Company, Mr Lorne McGibbon reported at the annual meeting held on Tuesday, amounted to the sum of $583,243.39, which, after payment of the interest on the bonds and dividends on the preferred and common stock, amounting to $402,499.75, leaves the sum of $180,743.64 to be added to surplus account, bringing the total of that account to the sum of $257,444.08. The combined net profits of the Canadian Consolidated Rubber Company, Limited, and its subsidiary companies for the year, after making provision in reduction of crude rubber and manufactured stocks on hand, amounted to $526,697.80, which, after paying bond interest and dividends, leaves a surplus for the year of $124,198.05. Arrangements have been made for the Company to act as the selling agent of all the rubber and felt companies controlled by it.

CUSTOMS' COLLECTIONS.—An increase of $10,816,464, is shown in the customs collections of the Dominion for the eleven months of the fiscal year, ending on Tuesday. The collections for the eleven months, ending February 28, 1911, are $64,898,391, as compared with $54,081,937, for the eleven months ending February 28, 1910. Collections in February, 1911, total $5,990,083, against $5,174,824 in February, 1910, an increase of $815,259. The customs collections on imports at the port of Montreal show a slight decrease for the month of February, 1911, compared with the February returns last year. The figures for February, 1911, amount to $1,387,240.39, against $1,397,947.37 for the corresponding month last year, a decrease of $10,706.98. The decrease is accounted for by the fact that February in 1910 was a record breaking month for customs. At Ottawa, the February customs collections were $106,339 as compared with $89,267 in the same month last year.

GRAIN EXPORTS FROM ATLANTIC PORTS.—Following are figures of grain exports from Atlantic ports during the past year:—

	Bushels.
Montreal.	26,095,426
Philadelphia.	7,819,499
Portland.	5,383,755
Boston.	9,224,124
New York.	17,403,329
Baltimore.	13,433,432
Newport News.	753,297
Norfolk.	246,733
New Orleans.	7,486,376
Galveston.	1,195,972
Mobile.	1,084,560
Port Arthur.	154,370
St. John, N. B.	6,506,041

THE BOIVIN-WILSON WATER TANK DISASTER.—Judgment was given by Mr Justice Monet, on Saturday, in the case of Boivin-Wilson & Company vs. the Vogel Company, the chief of the several law suits which arose out of the fall of the water tank at the Boivin-Wilson building in April, 1907, when a young girl was killed and much property ruined. The Vogel Company are the contractors who had agreed to equip the Boivin-Wilson warehouse with the fire-protection system, of which the water-tower was part, and Messrs. Boivin-Wilson sued them for damages. The Vogel Company in turn sued the Gardner Company, the contractors who had agreed to erect the tower, and the latter started an action in sub-warranty against the Montreal Locomotive Works, the builders of the steel work, which supported the reservoir. In the result, Mr. Justice Monet found for the Boivin-Wilson Co. against the Vogel Company on the ground that the accident was due to wall defects, which the Vogel Company was bound to guard against. He gave judgment against them for $9,500 with costs. The subsidiary actions were dismissed.

Insurance Items.

THE HEAD OFFICE OF THE SOVEREIGN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY is to be moved from Toronto to Winnipeg.

THE BILL incorporating the Alberta-Saskatchewan Life Insurance Company has been given third reading in the Senate.

BRITISH AMERICA ASSURANCE COMPANY AND WESTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.—The London Offices of the above Companies have been removed from 2 Change Alley to 14 Cornhill, E.C.

THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE PLATE GLASS & INDEMNITY COMPANY OF CANADA has filed with the Minister of Finance at Ottawa, a list of all policyholders whose policies have not been transferred, re-insured or surrendered, and applied to the Minister of Finance for the release of its securities on May 29, 1911.

INSURANCE AGAINST DOG BITES is the latest insurance novelty in Great Britain. A premium of 5s. covers the risk up to £100; a small charge being made for each additional animal where more than one dog is kept. The policy is expected to appeal to a large section of dog owners, who will be willing to pay the small premium to indemnify themselves against the risk of a claim for injuries to human beings by their dogs.