

MAYORALTY CONTESTS.—There is nothing very noticeable in connection with Mayoralty contests throughout Ontario. Mayor Urquhart was re-elected by a large plurality in Toronto.

CALENDARS, 1905.

Last week a number of Calendars for 1905, with which we have been favoured, were duly acknowledged. In addition to those, the following have come to hand, for all which we tender thanks:

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE U. S., has issued a series of six beautifully illuminated cards, each having an almanac for two months. Each card has a charming picture of a child's face, with floral surroundings, and pet birds. These faces and the accessories are coloured so skilfully and so tastefully as to make each a work of art.

THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, OF NEW YORK.—The card calendar of this eminent company is a striking contrast to the preceding one just noticed. The Mutual, of New York, presents a portrait of an Indian chief, which is well executed and attractive by its merit, as a specimen of coloured lithography, its originality and suggestiveness. The title reads in two parts; "The First American," and "Life Insurance Company." The first seems to apply only to the portrait, until the second part is noticed, and the whole is thus read: "The first American life insurance company."

THE CALEDONIAN INSURANCE COMPANY's card is all aglow with bright colours. The title is very effective, the white letters on scarlet ground being a happy continuation. A shield with the red lion of Scotland, and one with the arms of the company, are each well brought out. This is the Centennial year of the Caledonian, which is the oldest Scottish fire office.

CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—This calendar is rather distinguished by its sombreness, as an American ambassador was said to have been the most distinguished in a group of officials, laden with gold lace, because of his being in plain civilian's dress. The card is neat and restful to the eye.

THE ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY's card is brilliant, as Royalty is always held to be. On the upper left-hand corner are the Royal Arms embossed in colours. The company's title is a very effective combination of illuminated lettering, bright up to the limit of the laws of art. The side border of autumn maple leaves and ribbon work is tasteful and betrays the hand of the well-known art designer.

THE QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY very appropriately gives a portrait of Her Majesty, as the prominent feature in its calendar. The illuminated title is a particularly elegant composition. The side border is a very dainty display of colours, tastefully designed and executed with much skill by the Montreal Litho. Co., who deserve a compliment for the work.

LAW, UNION AND CROWN INSURANCE COMPANY.—This calendar is a study in blue, in various shades. The almanac is in six reversible leaves, each month being ruled, for use as a diary.

THE ARGUS makes its "debut" on a calendar this year. It gives us a group of merry-faced girls, who seem coming in procession to solicit support for **THE ARGUS**, an Independent, Political and Literary Review, of which Mr. Henry Dalby is editor and publisher. We wish the enterprise every success.

ONTARIO ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY, TORONTO.—The calendar of this company is very neat, quiet in colour, but will fulfill all the purposes of such a publication.

MESSRS. E. H. GAY & Co., bankers, favour us with a card, on which is depicted Gainsborough's famous portrait of the Duchess of Devonshire, that was stolen some years ago. The picture is nicely lithographed in colours, and pleasurably reminds us of one of the world's great pictures, and of a notable woman.

MESSRS. BAKER, AYLING, & Co., BANKERS, BOSTON, U. S., send us a card, on which appears a photo of Echo Bridge, Newton, Mass., which is a pretty scene effectively depicted.

Notes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

6 MONTREAL CLEARING HOUSE. Total for week ending Jan., 5th, 1905—Clearings \$24,734,507; corresponding week 1904, \$17,411,263; corresponding week 1903, \$22,914,000.

THE WEST, United States, will make a bad show for 1904 fire business, worse than in 1903.

THE FIRE AT SIOUX CITY on 22nd ult., involved a loss of \$1,160,350 to the insurance companies.

THE TRAVELLERS INSURANCE Co., is about to erect a very handsome and commodious office building in Hartford.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending Dec. 29, 1904—Clearings, \$1,831,380; corresponding week last year, \$1,505,847.