

panies there are 34 with a con- subscribed capital of \$53,240,000 which have their chief offices atario in the City of Toronto. Of insurance companies there are 15 doing business in the city, of which 59 are fire companies, 48 life, 15 accident, 14 marine, the others being devoted to guarantee, plate glass and other special lines of business. The last available returns show more than \$80,000,000 of fire insurance in force in Toronto. Besides the above, the city contains a large number of strong private firms engaged in financial brokerage and investment business. An index of the growing trade of Toronto is given by the fact that in 1897 the number of real estate transfers was 1,415, while in 1905 they were 7,917, with large increases in property values. The business of the Toronto Stock Exchange has increased about seven-fold within the past three years. The clearing house returns of the banks doing business in Toronto show the following record of progress:— 1900, \$513,696,401; 1901, \$625,228,306; 1902, \$809,078,550; 1903, \$808,748,260; 1904, \$842,097,066; 1905, \$1,047,490,701; 1906, \$1,319,125,351. The large financial interests of the city are built upon the sure foundation of a rapidly increasing manufacturing and wholesale trade. The Custom House returns for Toronto during the last seven years show a very large increase. 1898, duties collected, \$4,533,005; 1906, duties collected, \$10,049,290.65.

### **Toronto — A Centre of Art and Culture.**

Toronto is widely known as the artistic, literary and musical centre of the Dominion, and its influence in the direction of refinement and culture has impressed itself strongly upon the people of Canada. The list of its institutions for the cultivation of the nobler arts is a long one, while in the beautifying of its avenues, the adornment of its homes and the decoration even of many of its industrial establishments it presents a model to other centres of population. Two fine museums contain hundreds of valuable specimens and documents. The Ontario Society of Artists, the Central Ontario School of Art, the Women's Art Association and The Toronto Art League, are all active in the holding of art exhibits and the promotion of painting, drawing and sculpture. The Canadian Institute and the Women's Canadian Historical Society do much to preserve the fast vanishing tokens and records of our country's past, while the National Council of Women, the British Empire League, and other similar organizations are keenly in touch with the sentiments of the present day. Music is represented by three excellent conservatories, to which students come from all over Canada, and from many foreign countries. Besides such institutions as these the city contains many societies for purposes of research in various realms of thought and for the promotion of religious, moral, scientific or philosophical discussion. Toronto contains among its citizens a number of men whose names are familiar in the English field of literature, while its scientists and artists have contributed in no small degree to the knowledge and happiness of the world.