may be held in this and other cities of which due notice will be given. On the 4th inst., proceedings will be commenced at the Imperial Building, Ottawa. At a meeting of the Commission on 7th inst., Mr. Justice McTavish said:

"Any individual, corporation, or company, having any claim, complaint or charge which it is desired to investigate may lay the same before him by addressing a communication to the secretary at Ottawa, and it will receive our consideration and will be enquired into.

"We would like to bring to the notice of all parties concerned that it is our desire to expedite the proceedings and to determine the matter submitted to us without unnecessary delay, always having in view, however, the necessity for a thorough and exhaustive investigation. No consideration must be permitted to restrict or impede the fullest possible enquiry.

"We, thereforet, take this opportunity to announce that on Wednesday, 14th March, instant, at 11 o'clock a.m., at the Imperial building, No. 138 Queen street, Ottawa, we will sit for the purpose of proceeding with the enquiry.

"It seems to us that our first duty will be to enquire into the operation of the laws of the Parliament of Canada, relating to the business of life insurance generally and how the provisions of such laws have been observed and with that object in view, will first procure all possible information from the insurance branch of the department of finance. We propose holding our sittings in Ottawa until it is made to appear to us that the public interest requires us to sit elsewhere, in which case we will choose such places as may be deemed necessary, of which due notice will be given, regard being had to the convenience of the parties concerned."

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MR. GEORGE SHEPLEY, TORONTO, has been appointed by the Government as counsel, in connection with the insurance enquiry.

Mr. Shepley is authorized to employ additional counsel or such other assistance as he may require.

The Ontario Government has appointed Mr. Hell muth, K.C., and Mr. Geary, of the Ontario Bar, to represent it before the Insurance Commission.

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NEED FOR THE ENQUIRY.—The circumstances out of which the demand for an enquiry arose originated not in Canada, but in New York. The enquiry in that State was instituted in consequence of certain squabbles between leading officials connected with one of the large companies. There has been no real demand for an enquiry in Canada. If, however, it be conducted on intelligent lines, and having some person associated with it, who is acquainted with the intricacies of life assurance, it will be beneficial and welcomed by the companies. It will result in allaying suspicion which seems to exist and so strengthen public confidence in the system and the companies.

It is of extreme importance to the extension of life insurance that the methods and investments of the companies command absolute confidence and that their published statements be worthy of implicit trust.

One result of the enquiry it is alleged will be the enlargement of the powers of the Superintendent of insurance, and that fuller details will be required so that a more complete and intelligent exhibit will be made of the business and the condition of the life insurance companies.

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CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE, NEW BRANCH IN MONTREAL.—This institution, the second largest bank in Canada, has opened a new branch in this city at the corner of St. Catherine and Metcalfe streets, which is one of the best sites for business "up-town," or away from St. James St. The offices are the most complete of any occupied by branch banks in this city and are fitted with every convenience for customers as well as the staff. The Canadian Bank of Commerce has now 138 branches in Canada, Great Britain and United States, its total assets amounting to $98,375,597. The new branch will be under the management of Mr. H. B. Parsons. This situation was very judiciously selected by Mr. F. H. Mathewson.

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TARIFF REVISION.—Owing to the late period at which the Session is called and the indisposition of the Minister of Finance there will be no general tariff revision this Session.

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BANK CHANGES.—The Journal of the Canadian Bankers' Association shows the Canadian bank changes of five years. Five new banks started since 1900 are now reporting to the Government, while six small banks have either failed or have been absorbed, chiefly the latter. The banks chartered follow:

1903, Alliance Bank (expired)	$ 5,000,000
1903, Bank of Winnipeg	1,000,000
1903, Citizens of Canada	2,000,000
1903, Home Bank	1,000,000
1903, Northern Bank	1,000,000
1903, Pacific Bank	2,000,000
1903, Sterling Bank	1,000,000
1904, Farmers Bank	1,000,000
1905, Monach Bank	2,000,000

The new banks which have been started since 1900 and are now reporting to the Government are: The Sovereign Bank of Canada, the Metropolitan Bank, the Crown Bank, the Home Bank, the Northern Bank.

Banks absorbed or failed since 1900.

Bank of Yarmouth, failed.

The Halifax Banking Company, absorbed by Bank of Commerce.