

THOROLD, ONT., has passed a vote in favour of establishing water works.

The new steamer "Kingston," for the Richelieu & Ontario service, now being built at Toronto, will be launched this month.

PARRY SOUND has voted \$29,500 for an electric light plant and improved water works, also a sum for a steel bridge over the Seguin river.

Petroleum from Borneo is being used for enriching gas in London, England. It is said to have an illuminating power of 25 per cent. more than American coal oil.

THE CENSORS OF THE PROVINCIAL BANK have decided to submit a by-law to the next general meeting to effect that all the deposits in the savings bank department shall be loaned only on stocks and other securities.

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY for last year shows assets, \$300,000,000; surplus, \$63,000,000; income, \$58,000,000; new assurance issued, \$205,000,000; outstanding assurance, \$1,100,000,000.

PRESIDENT TRUESDALE of the Delaware, Lackawana & Western Railroad, has been elected a trustee of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of H. Walter Webb.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA's new notes are in four colours, printed by a new process which was introduced by a Russian to protect the government's notes from forgery. The new notes have the royal coat of arms on the back. Although not of Canadian production, they are fairly well executed.

A CENSUS GUESSING COMPETITION has been started by an American company, in which this journal is invited to participate. It is stated, that such a contest "elevates the moral and intellectual standard of the community." The scheme is too much like a lottery to be encouraged by this journal.

Delays are dangerous, especially in securing the equipments of a fire brigade. The Westmount authorities cannot agree on the kind of ladder to be acquired for the town. While they are disputing over this ladder, there may be a fire disaster, owing to its absence.

The Grand Trunk line from Hamilton to Jordan, 26 miles, has been double tracked, and the balance of the road to the Falls will be completed by Dominion Day. Travellers will appreciate the improvement, as it lessens risks of accidents and of delays. The company is making extensive improvements also at Portland.

THE UNION MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO., of Portland, Maine, reports that the books are being closed for 1900, with an undoubted increase in new business written over 1899, and the Company is flooded with applications from all over the United States and Canada. The November issues will make a record. Mr. Walter J. Joseph, the manager here, is very justly jubilant over the progress of the company last year.

BANK CLEARINGS OF THE WORLD'S METROPOLIS.—The report of the Bankers' Clearing House, London, England, shows a reduction of some \$950,000,000 as compared with the clearings of 1899. Yet the total for 1900 (\$44,800,850,000) is the second largest amount passed through the London Clearing House in any one year.

MR. D. C. MACDONALD, manager of the London Mutual Fire Insurance Company, died on 12th inst. Deceased passed as a solicitor in 1861, but succeeded his father in the above position in 1870. He had taken a very active interest in public affairs, having been twice elected Mayor of London, and was much respected throughout that district.

Major Hendrie has been elected Mayor of Hamilton, by a large majority over three other candidates. Other mayors have been elected as follows: Alderman Morris, at Ottawa; Mayor Rumball, London, Ont.; Major Kent, Kingston; D. B. Wood, Brantford; James Stamp, Stratford; J. Kennedy, Guelph; G. W. Suiman, Chatham; R. J. Graham, Belleville; S. Chant, St. Thomas; J. B. McIntyre, St. Catharines; J. Davis, Windsor; Dr. Bowlby, Berlin; E. C. S. Huycke, Cobourg; Isaac Silver, Collingwood; J. B. Mitchell, Bowmanville; Thos. Fair, Galt; F. L. Fowke, Oshawa; A. Read, Owen Sound; T. G. Carscallen, Napanee; W. Still, Orangeville; R. F. Slater, Niagara Falls.

MR. W. POLSON, OF THE POLSON IRON WORKS, Toronto, died there on 7th inst. He was a native of Montreal. In early life, became mechanical superintendent of the Cobourg & Marmora Railway. In 1833 he opened up the Polson Iron Works, Toronto, which was developed, by his energy and great skill until it became a very extensive enterprise, ship-building being part of the business. The C.P.R. steamers running from Owen Sound to Fort William were built by this firm. Mr. Polson was much respected, and will be much missed in business circles.

From the summary of the 56th annual report of the New York Life, we glean the following interesting figures:—

|                                      |               | Increase    |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| New Premiums and Annuities           | \$ 11,637,711 | \$1,281,844 |
| Renewal Premiums, less Re-Assurances | 37,119,847    | 5,338,231   |
| Paid Policy-holders                  | 28,958,833    | 2,598,295   |
| New Insurance paid for               | 2,328,255     | 30,079,175  |
| Assurance in force                   | 1,292,156,665 | 140,284,680 |
| Assets                               | 262,196,512   | 25,746,164  |

We understand that the Canadian branch of the Company contributed its quota to the above gratifying results.

There is a great hubbub in some of the papers over the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Crow's Nest coal fields and the proposed extension of the great Northern line into British Columbia. The whole affair turns upon what the Government will do. The Hon. Mr. Blair, Minister of Railways, has declared that he sees no reason why British Columbia should not have all the railway connections required to rapidly develop its resources. As the proposed line to the border of the States will give an outlet for coal from the Crow's Nest district, he sees no reason why it should not have a charter granted, as the supply is limitless. Mr. Blair states that he is drafting a bill for a permanent railway commission to deal with exorbitant rates and other matters.