

The Hague Conference. The Hague Conference will assemble with considerable freedom of discussion. Some of the powers have insisted upon the right to discuss certain questions and others have insisted upon the right to abstain from such discussion. This forbids the hope of unanimity of action upon all subjects, but even the international discussion of the things which make for peace is bound to have beneficial results in the long run.

The Late J. W. St. John. Following the formal election on Monday, of Mr. Thomas Crawford as Speaker of the Ontario Legislature, Premier Whitney and Hon. G. P. Graham paid simple but heartfelt tribute to the memory of late Speaker J. W. St. John. The words of the leader of the Opposition were sincerely echoed in the hearts of all present when he said: "As a Legislature we have sustained a deep loss, and as individuals we feel that a friend has departed."

Parliament and the Insurance Report. The Insurance Report—but with insurance as yet left out—has again been prominently to the fore in the House of Commons this week. With such political and personal disputes the insurance interests of Canada are not concerned. And the public should bear in mind that the charges and countercharges, accusations and exculpations, which are proving so prized a "find" for the sensational press, are related in no instance to individuals who are now, or ever have been, connected with the management of life insurance companies.

Let the Socialists March. The so-called socialists, have caused a little ripple of excitement in aldermanic circles because they want to march. We would say that it is a good thing to let them march as far and as long as they like. Of course, it is taken for granted that they will not interfere with public traffic or convenience and will not do anything which would bring them within the pale of the law. The importance of these little matters lies in the free advertising they get.

The Colonial Conference. That the coming Colonial Conference can be altogether barren of results is difficult to imagine. The most important issue is, of course that of Imperial Preferential Trade, and while the immediate outlook is not very promising for the success of that policy it is difficult to see how the almost unanimous recommendations of the colonies can be altogether ignored.

Trade with the Orient. The Hong Kong representative of an important British commercial house while passing through Canada this week, made special reference to the increase in shipping between the Orient and the Dominion. He reports a growing desire in both China and Japan for Canadian flour and produce. This he attributes chiefly to two causes: first, the natural demands of an increasing population for food articles conveniently obtainable from Canada; second, the boycotting of American goods among the Chinese and Japanese because of recent strained relations with the United States.

Baltimore Opposes Public Ownership. Baltimore follows Chicago in giving a present quietus to municipal ownership. A Democratic aspirant for the office of Mayor consented to advocate the principle but was defeated in the primary, receiving less than 10,000 votes as compared with 24,000 cast for the successful Democratic nominee. Neither of the prospective Republican candidates could be persuaded to adopt public ownership as a plank in his platform. Altogether, less than nine per cent. of the registered vote of the city was given in support of municipal socialism.

In Favour of Tariff Reform. At the annual meeting on Wednesday of the London Chamber of Commerce, the chairman said a scrutiny of the votes showed that 1,077 members are in agreement with Mr. Faithful Begg's resolution in favour of tariff reform, and 472 members against.



CANADIAN BANK CLEARINGS.

Bank clearings at eleven Canadian cities compiled by Bradstreets for March aggregated \$333,098,683, a gain of 12 p.c. over March last year; while for three months the clearings aggregated \$978,533,487, a gain of 7.8 p.c. over 1906:

	Three Months.	
	1907.	1906.
Montreal	\$369,890,437	\$370,940,731
Toronto	312,280,593	291,821,511
Winnipeg	120,887,770	93,040,769
Ottawa	37,088,649	30,119,552
Vancouver, B. C.	40,591,041	25,238,480
Halifax	21,303,889	21,715,149
Quebec	22,795,139	21,100,651
Hamilton	20,380,602	16,863,682
St. John, N. B.	14,896,015	13,338,137
London	15,699,514	13,426,327
Victoria, B. C.	11,719,838	10,278,666
Calgary	16,224,605	
Edmonton	10,747,456	

Total Canada \$978,533,487 \$907,883,655

* Not included in totals because of complete comparisons.