

NEW BUILDINGS IN TORONTO.

According to the report of the City Commissioner, the new buildings or additions to buildings in Toronto during 1891, have amounted in value to nearly five millions of dollars. The exact total is \$4,688,900, which the Commissioner makes up by totalling the following: 774 brick dwellings at \$2,391,800 in all; also 236 brick-fronted dwellings at \$297,500, and 37 rough-cast at \$29,800. There were 113 brick stores erected at a cost of \$387,700; sixteen warehouses, \$168,500; eight factories, \$53,200; six churches, schools, or missions, \$117,500; two hotels and fifty-four stables, making in all \$56,300. Then there were eight buildings classed as miscellaneous and costing \$300,400, while the cost of alterations to premises during the year amounted to \$255,200. These already exceed four millions in value, but there are yet the structures of a public or semi-public character. The rebuilding of Toronto University cost say \$200,000; the new Victoria College in the Park a like amount. Then there are the Odd Fellows Hall, the Y. W. C. building, the Temperance Coffee House, the Aged Women's Home, the St. George's Society Hall, the Athenaeum Club, the Dominion Bank (Spadina branch), and the new offices of Gooderham & Worts, to occupy the historical site in the Gore opposite the Bank of Toronto at the angle of Wellington and Front streets.

A NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

It had been decided some weeks or months ago by the proprietors of the *Dominion Illustrated* to change the form of that interesting journal and make it a monthly. Accordingly the first issue of the "*Dominion Illustrated Monthly*," that for Feby., appeared last week, and is in every way creditable. The many lovers of Rugby football will welcome R.T. McKenzie's paper on "Rugby Football in Canada." There are illustrations of the three systems—Canadian, English and American—which give a vivid idea of the varying methods of play. The startling incidents of the fighting in Acadia in the last century are grouped by the masterly hand of Professor C. G. D. Roberts. The first instalment of the historical tale, "The Raid from Beausejour," is well illustrated, and promises to be very attractive. There is a talk about "Rab and his Friends," and the other writings of Dr. John Brown, of Edinburgh, in a vein almost as delightful as the subject. Douglas Brymner, Rev. A. J. Lockhart, Miss McLeod, Arthur Weir, Marjory McMurchy, are among the other contributors. The tone of the magazine is patriotic and wholesome, and its popular price, \$1.50 per annum, ought to secure it a wide distribution. There is a colored picture issued as a supplement with each number. That for March, we are told, will illustrate a game of curling. The paper on which the new magazine is printed is excellent.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. C.; Stratford.—Yes, a figure is evidently left out, which changes hundreds of millions to tens of millions. The amount in the 39th line, middle column Banking Review, page 902 of last week's issue, should be 227 millions of dollars, owned by the people of the Dominion, as compared with 208 millions in the previous year, 202 millions in 1889, and only 151 millions in the year 1884.

MERCHANT; York.—Writes stating that the Patrons of Industry "appear to think they

should have all goods at a certain per cent. [of profit] and yet want to exclude sugars, cut nails and a host of other goods that there is no profit in now." He wants to know what we think of this and "how the thing works in other places." A correspondent in Waterloo and another in Brant county also write us with respect to this matter. It is referred to on page 933 of this issue in "The Situation," to which we would add that in our opinion the sale of goods at 12½ per cent. advance all round will ruin country shopkeepers by the hundred. "Merchant," and "Paris," and "H. R." should remember that for men selling only \$10,000 a year to accept this rate of gross profit means that they get only \$1,250 a year, out of which to pay rent, fuel, clerk-hire, interest and living expenses. A dealer who sells \$1000 a week would have a better chance of existing, but even he, if he sold for cash, could not last at such rates, giving sugar and nails away for less than 12½ per cent. Besides, what right have Patrons to buy cheaper than any one else? Such nonsense has been tried before, but in vain.

INSURANCE NOTES.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Pacific Coast Fire Insurance Company was held in Vancouver last week. The president's report and annual financial statement were adopted, and the shareholders expressed great satisfaction with the progress and success of the company. The old board of directors were re-elected.

The annual meeting of the Quebec Life Underwriters' Association was held on Tuesday evening in their room in the Natural History Society building, Montreal. The various officers brought up very satisfactory reports of the year's work, and the following officers were elected for the year 1892:—President, H. G. Corthorn; vice-president, T. La Ferriere; treasurer, J. F. Junkin; secretary, A. J. Hubbard. Committee—S. Mondon, A. Simard, G. H. Junkin, E. Scholfield and L. T. Leet.

A copy has been sent us of a fly-sheet, intended to be startling, which we are told is being sent broadcast over the country by some assessment concern or concerns. It begins by quoting an alleged list of old line life companies "Bled to Death by their Officers, Managers and Receivers." Then comes another page of the sheet which is headed "Extortion! Fraud! Bankruptcy! Robbery!—How the game is played by the Mutual Life of New York." And the story goes on to give so much income by that company; so much paid in death claims and endowments, showing a big excess of income, but not a word about the company's profits declared and distributed among policy-holders, which we know to be considerable. This sort of thing is dishonest. But what attention is likely to be paid to a "dodger" which flings about charges of robbery, fraud, theft and misappropriation, despoiling the widow and the orphan. The writer dares not sign them; the printer does not put his imprint on them. They only serve to show the venom of those who issue them secretly.

A well known firm in London, England, has constructed an electric fire engine, which is similar to the steam engines in use in the metropolis and various provincial towns. It is arranged on four wheels with fore carriage and capacious hose box, and implements and seats for firemen and driver. Instead, however, of the usual boiler, a Siemens' motor is

substituted for the operation of the pump. According to the *Hardware Trade Journal*, the engine is capable of pumping from 350 to 500 gallons per minute, and of throwing one jet to a height of 175 feet, or three jets 100 feet. The pump is so constructed that it will draw its supply of water from tanks, streams, shallow wells, or direct from the street hydrants. As far as weight is concerned, that of the electric is rather more than that of the steam fire engine; but the former is easily drawn by a pair of horses at a gallop. The current is derived through a manhole from an underground system, the connection between the motor and the latter being effected by means of a flexible piece of cable.

The Alliance Hail Insurance Company, of North Dakota, last year insured 170,000 acres at 25 cents an acre, for a maximum loss of \$8 per acre. The losses were \$39,000.

To extinguish an oil fire, bran of any kind of mill feed thrown upon it will be found to be effective.

In this age of calendars the man who would excuse the protesting of a note, or the failure to keep an engagement, by saying that he had forgotten the date, would find his appropriate place in a dime museum. But any one of the calendars received by us within the past few days—that of the Phoenix Fire, of London; the Perth Mutual, of Stratford, or the Wellington Fire, of Guelph—would save him from being the gazing-stock of his fellow-men.

MONTREAL CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings for the week ended yesterday were \$9,056,581. Balances, \$1,424,490.

TORONTO CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances of this clearing-house (of which the Bank of Toronto is not a member) for the week ended 4th Feb., 1892, are as under:—

	Clearings.	Balances.
January 29	\$ 971,166	\$133,391
" 30	957,285	119,108
February 1	761,169	59,835
" 2	1,154,120	138,917
" 3	1,071,888	200,544
" 4	1,079,132	194,839
Total	\$5,994,760	\$846,634

HALIFAX CLEARING HOUSE.

Bradstreets report bank clearings for week ending Jan. 30th, 1892, were as follows:

Monday, Jan. 25	\$190,814 51
Tuesday, " 26	266,096 07
Wednesday " 27	168,449 82
Thursday " 28	124,939 37
Friday, " 29	178,989 74
Saturday, " 30	166,300 66
Total	\$1,095,590 17

—The directors of the British Canadian Loan and Investment Company, of which the fourteenth annual meeting has just been held, report continued growth and prosperity on the part of the company, in the face of keen competition in selling debentures and in making investments. Proof of this prosperity is shown in \$32,911 of net earnings, sufficient to pay seven per cent. dividend, in the addition of \$8,000 to reserve, and in the carrying forward of an increased balance. The reserve now amounts to \$90,000. An enlarged business is shown, more money having been borrowed, and the mortgage loans being \$100,000 greater. From this condition of things the report argues a probable further addition to