

CIVIC EXPENDITURE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.—The expenditure of New York for 1905 is estimated at \$116,805,490, which exceeds 1905 by \$6,987,897. The population of the city is 4,014,304, which gives an expenditure per head of \$29.10.

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REPUBLISHING EDITORIALS WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—We have again to protest against articles specially written for this journal being republished in other papers without any acknowledgment. A recent instance was the publication in "The Commercial Winnipeg" of an editorial we published on the comparative progress made by the United States and Canada. No acknowledgment was made. This editorial was again re-published, the second time by the "Argus" of this city, which, naturally enough, credited our article to the Winnipeg paper. Several newspapers regularly quote our editorials in full, or at some length, without any acknowledgment. A glaring case occurred this week when a city contemporary extracted a table of statistics that had taken us some time to compile, and issued this table as though it were original matter. In re-publishing these figures they were accompanied by remarks which quite misrepresented their purport, showing that the table was appropriated by some person who did not understand the subject he was venturing to discuss.

Notes and Items.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

MONTREAL CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending November 2, 1905—Clearings, \$28,589,319; corresponding week 1904, \$24,896,708; 1903, \$25,083,834.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending Oct. 25, 1905—Clearings \$1,959,500; corresponding week last year, \$1,905,968.

WINNIPEG'S GROWING TIME.—Inland revenue collections for October are the largest in the history of the city's port \$107,868.62; for the same month a year ago they were \$91,883.45.

The customs collections at the port of Winnipeg last month were very large, and were \$92,842 in excess of collections for corresponding month last year. The figures are: Collection, October, 1905, \$285,760.29; October, 1904, \$192,913.75; increase \$92,842.54.

CONVICTION FOR BARRATRY.—Thomas R. Johnson, Kansas City, who was prosecuted for stirring up unjustified litigation against casualty companies, pleaded guilty last week and was sentenced to thirty days in jail for barratry. This was the first conviction for this offence in the history of Kansas City. Johnson went among people who carried accident insurance on the monthly payment plan and if they had lapsed would induce them to sue, claiming that they were entitled to paid-up insurance. He would get batches of twenty or more suits and would then settle with the insurance companies for a trivial amount. He confessed that there was no merit in the cases and that

they were brought merely to harass the companies and compel them to settle. The Continental Casualty Company and the Northern Accident of Detroit were instrumental in securing his arrest.—N. Y. "Bulletin."

OHIO FIRE PROTECTION ORDINANCES.—Mr. Hy. D. Davis reports on the Ohio ordinances for fire protection.

It is important that the power to inspect buildings be given the fire chief because it insures him having knowledge of the amount and location of explosives in any building which is in flames.

That the boiling of oil or varnish should be controlled as directed in Section 13 is shown by the fact that the average number of buildings fired each year by the boiling over of kettles containing animal or vegetable fats is 46.

Section 14, directed against rubbish and the careless carrying of burning material, is covered by comments on Section 2.

Section 15 and 16 are of importance for the protection of property and of life as well. The loss of property, and life too, from the careless handling of petroleum products and vegetable oils is so stupendous that the matter of controlling it has been well worked out in many cities.

The fires from carelessness with kerosene numbered 304, and from the use of gasoline, which is dangerous even in the hands of the most careful, numbered 395.

Gasoline alone destroys each year about \$450,000 of the wealth of the state.

In Ohio during ten weeks of this summer gasoline fired 72 houses, burned nine persons to death and seriously burned forty-three.

A pint of gasoline exposed in a closed room will make 200 cubic feet of air an explosive compound through the vapor it gives off. And still many use it for wash water.

Section 17 is against false alarms of fire, and Section 18 prohibits interference with the fire department's apparatus while in use.

Section 19 charges the Chief of the Fire Department, the Firemen and the Chief of Police with enforcing the foregoing ordinances.

Section 20 provides a penalty of \$10 to \$100 and costs.

FIRES IN OCTOBER.—The report of the Superintendent of Fire Alarm Department for October shows that no large fire occurred in this city last month.

The following will show the causes for calling out the brigade.

	1905.	1904.
Fires.. . . .	61	56
Alarms (no fire).. . . .	31	27
False alarms.. . . .	21	15
Automatic.. . . .	0	2
Total.. . . .	113	100

The following are given as the causes for fires and alarms: Back draught, 1; carelessness with matches, 5; children playing with matches, 11; chimneys on fire, 18; cigar smoking, 1; coal oil explosion, 1; coal oil stove explosion, 1; drying plaster, 2; electricity, 5; false alarms, 21; gas jets, 2; hot ashes, 2; lamp explosions, 3; lamp upset, 2; overheated boiler, 1; overheated oven, 1; overheated stove, 3; overheated stovepipes, 2; pot of tar, 3; sparks from chimney, 1; sparks from forge, 1; sparks from furnace, 1; stove upset, 1; sugar boiling, 1; unknown, 23. Total, 113.

THE NATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN.—The price of the shares of the National Insurance Company of Great Britain, of which Mr. James Glen is manager, have recently advanced from 38s to 45s and it is understood that an absorption is impending.—"New York Journal of Commerce."

FIRE CURTAINS FOR THEATRES.—The local board of fire