

and other designs. The exhibit of wood carving by McCormack & Co. well deserves especial mention, while the plaster modelling by Bailey & Oban and William J. Hynes, as well as the designs and modelling in leather by Mr. and Mrs. Gustave Hahn were very attractive. There were on view a number of tasteful designs and addresses by A. H. Howard, among them the dainty album presented by his friends to Mr. H. P. Dwight, not hitherto on public view. Our architects contributed liberally of building designs and plans, and Mr. Morang, the publisher, sent among other things book cover designs by Harriet Ford, Rex Stovel and G. A. Reid. Women, to the number of ten or a dozen were exhibitors of painting, modelling and carving, while Mr. Angstrom, of the Bertram Co., lent designs and plans of a new steamer, and Messrs. Grier, Cruikshank, Reid and Challener had on view studies for proposed wall decorations in the Toronto city hall. There were in all between forty and fifty exhibitors.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

Mr. J. B. Sincennes, notary, of Montreal, has been appointed manager of the French Department of the London and Lancashire Life Assurance Company.

The London and Liverpool and Globe Insurance Company has given £200 to the Hull and Ottawa fire relief fund, and the London and Lancashire Fire the sum of two hundred guineas.

The Attorney-General of New York State has rendered an opinion that the fact that \$100,000 of its capital not having been paid up does not debar the North American Life Insurance Co. of Toronto, from doing business in the state. The Toronto company has a paid up capital of \$60,000, and the opinion was given at the request of State Superintendent of Insurance Hendricks. The Attorney-General says: "I would not refuse to attach my certificate to the charter of any such corporation on the grounds of such failure of capital. It seems to me that it is quite immaterial what amount of capital has been paid at the home of the corporation, as long as the requisite amount is deposited here as a guarantee and protection to its policyholders, which in effect becomes the American capital properly applicable to the satisfaction of policy claims."

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

HISTORY OF U. S. BANKING.—We learn by a circular from Messrs. Bradford Rhodes & Co., New York, that the work so long in preparation, "A History of Banking in the United States," by the late John Jay Knox, Comptroller of the U. S. Currency, is now ready for publication. Mr. Knox was assisted in the compilation of this comprehensive and valuable work by financial writers in various parts of the Union, and the book has had the advantage of revision by Bradford Rhodes, Editor of the Banker's Magazine, and E. H. Youngman, associate Editor. Pp. 860. Price \$5. An attractive feature is steel plate portraits of Hamilton, Gallatin, Chase, McCulloch, Knox, Sherman and other well-known American financiers; also biographical sketches of these men.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT of the Municipal Corporation of the city of Brantford for the year ending 31st December, 1899.—Out of total receipts of \$223,364 for the year, \$26,000 was a loan; \$132,083 came from taxes; \$18,440, revenue from water; \$6,592 from local improvements; \$4,404 from licenses, and \$6,471 from sinking fund earnings. Of the outlay, no less than \$33,970 was extraordinary, for expenses caused by a spring flood, and some \$44,000 was interest on the debenture debt (of \$811,939). Water commissioners received \$10,876; streets and street lighting cost \$19,000, the fire department \$8,469; the police \$7,300, and schools \$25,966. The pamphlet is comprehensive and ably put together.

BULLETIN DE LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE du District de Montreal.—This is a weekly *resumé* of the doings and sayings of the Montreal French Chamber of Commerce. It contains an article on the direct line of steamers to France, a letter on Les Ailes du Commerce, and reports of the discussions of the body.

CONSULAR REPORTS, U. S.—The present is the May issue of the valuable reports of United States consuls, all over the world, on commerce and manufactures. Among the reports of immediate interest to Canadians are those of Consul Martin, of

Amherstburg on hardware imports into Canada; that of Commercial Agent Johnson at Stanbridge, Que., on a new Canadian grain route and on Canadian meat and poultry exports; notes on pulpwood in Ontario.

—Writing on the subject of the prices of commodities the latest issue of The London Economist notes that during April there has been a pause in, if not a cessation of, the advance in price noted at end of March. The figures show that where prices had been at 1,890 (Index Number) on the close of December, 1898, they had gone steadily up during last year, standing at 1,973 in March, 2,028 in June, 2,085 in September, and 2,145 at close of year. Then this year the advance was for a while continued, the figure being 2,240 at end of March, but no advance was made, the figure for 30th April being exactly the same. There have been advances, it is true, in some metals during the month, but these have been offset by declines in wool, tallow, indigo, and some minor textiles.

—So freely has money poured in from various parts of the world for the relief of sufferers by the Hull and Ottawa fire that the fund reaches \$800,000, and some people are protesting that it is too much. If the question were merely one of immediate feeding of the hungry and covering of the naked the protest would have much weight, for such immediate necessities have been relieved. But there must be a thousand or two families whose bread-winners have no work and no means, and there are other thousands of workers who until factories and mills are rebuilt cannot well be earners. These have neither homes, effects nor resources. And it is these helpless and needy ones who require to be helped.

—Some days ago Vancouver citizens voted on two by-laws, one to borrow \$12,000 for a new cemetery, and the other to raise \$80,000 for new schools. The cemetery by-law was defeated, the vote standing 245 against and 39 for; the schools by-law carried by 195 for and 81 against. Vancouver people would evidently rather be educated than buried; that is such a limited number of them as take enough interest in such matters to express an opinion at the polls. And yet they are no worse than other places in neglect of matters that concern the public weal.

—Winnipeg wholesale men have been interviewing the Manitoba Government, aiming to secure legislation which shall provide for equitable division of the assets of insolvents. The delegation pointed out that insolvents are now in a position to favor friends by paying them amounts for which they are indebted immediately preceding and while they are contemplating making an assignment; that discrimination of this sort is unjust, and asked that the law provide against it.

—La Chambre de Commerce Francaise de Montreal has issued invitations to a luncheon which it proposes to give on board the steamer "Mont Blanc," on Tuesday next, 22nd inst., on the occasion of the arrival at Montreal from France of the first vessel of the Franco-Canadienne Steam Navigation Co.

—We learn with regret of the death, early this morning, of Mr. F. Wolferstan Thomas, general manager of the Molsons Bank. His illness had been a protracted one, and his death was not unexpected.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, May 17th, 1900, compared with those of the previous week:

| CLEARINGS. | May 17, 1900. | May 10, 1900. |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Montreal..... | \$15,208,193 | \$15,212,940 |
| Toronto..... | 10,395,935 | 10,698,449 |
| Winnipeg..... | 2,409,411 | 2,042,289 |
| Halifax..... | 1,333,111 | 1,533,116 |
| Hamilton..... | 804,800 | 833,699 |
| St. John..... | 593,906 | 752,523 |
| Vancouver..... | 856,240 | 848,369 |
| Victoria..... | 702,435 | 714,842 |

\$32,304,031 \$32,618,227

Aggregate balances, this week, \$4,633,523; last week, \$4,830,596