FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE NOTES.

Canada gets 83 per cent of her borrowed money from Great Britain.

The twenty-two banks transacting business in Australia and New Zealand distributed £1,664,384 in dividends and bonuses to shareholders in 1911.

Fire Chief Tremblay has asked that the insurance companies be taxed two per cent on premiums received instead of one per cent.

The insurance brokerage firm of Morrisey, Robinson & Freygang, Montreal, has been dissolved.

United States has 243 wireless stations, Great Britain 93, Germany 83, Russia 59, and France 40.

William J. Bryan announces that he will not be a candidate for Democratic nomination for President this year.

Last year the world added to its merchant vessels a tonnage of 2,650,140. Of this prodigious amount of shipbuilding, Great Britain produced 1,803,844 tons.

By next fall the Canadian Northern Railway will have an electric line completed between Toronto and Guelph.

Pupils in the elementary schools of Austria are compelled to learn English.

Spanish courts have ordered dissolution of 400 trade unions.

The final provisional census returns give the total population of India at 315,000,000.

The London "Economist" predicts a Democratic victory in the United States next November.

Dr. F. S. Pearson heads an English syndicate which has purchased Mount Popocatepetl, Mexico, for $8,000,000, and will mine sulphur.

Mr. A. J. Hughes, who for some years was actuary of the Crown Life Insurance Co., and who resigned to join the China Mutual Insurance Co. of Shanghai, China, has been appointed managing director of that company.

In the past sixty years the population of England and Wales has doubled.

Fairbanks Bros. have been heavy buyers of Canadian Power bonds recently, and in the last four or five weeks have picked up about $100,000 worth.

Mr. Gordon Greenshields and Mr. W. Marler have been elected members of the Montreal Stock Exchange.

The Grand Trunk has acquired an important parcel of 21,000 square feet of land in Providence for freight yard purposes.

Out of the total population of the States, amounting to nearly 92,000,000 over one seventh are foreign born.

During 1911 there were about 6,753 buildings with a value of about $25,000,000 erected at Sydney, Australia, eclipsing the previous year's record.

It has been calculated that on the present footing the present war costs Italy about $250,000 a day, or $7,500,000 a month.

Government experts estimate the value of fuel peat in the United States at forty billion dollars.

Table necessaries at retail have been generally increased approximately 25 per cent in cost to New York consumers during the past 12 months.

The German railways had a favorable year in 1911. For 11 months there was an increase of about 5 per cent in passenger earnings and 9 per cent in freight earnings.

The new transmission line of the Sherbrooke Railway & Power Co., 32 miles in length, running southward from Sherbrooke to Stanstead and Rock Island, has been completed.

Investigation of inequalities of freight rates between Eastern and Western Canada has been set for March 8 by the Railway Commission, at the instigation of the Government.

The Canadian Northwest Grain Dealers' Association estimates the amount of wheat still in the farmers' hands at 179,000,000 bushels.

The National Highways Association has been incorporated at Washington for the purpose of promoting good roads in the United States.

Bounties paid by the Dominion Government during the last year they were in operation amounted to $1,808,533.

In 1911 Ontario produced 16,000 tons of nickel and 7,000 tons of copper.

The C.P.R. expect to build 700 miles of road during the coming year. Most of it will be west of the Great Lakes.

Mr. Jas. McKinnon, former general manager of the Eastern Townships Bank, has been made manager-in-chief of all the E.T. Bank branches east of Toronto.

Cobalt has paid in dividends over $36,500,000, and in wages, supplies, etc., $22,783,000.

There are seven million women earning their own livelihoods in the United States. More than 80 per cent of English women are self-supporting.

Eighty per cent of excavation work on the Panama Canal has been completed.

General T. Coleman du Pont, believed to be worth $10,000,000, will give all the surplus of his fortune to building good roads in Delaware and adjoining States

The Black Lake Asbestos Company has defaulted on its bond interest. Plans for reorganization of the company are now being considered.

In future all directors of loan and building societies in Ontario must be 21 years of age, be British subjects, and own at least $1,000 worth of the company's stock.

Jas. J. Hill says :—"Wood is rapidly disappearing, and it is only a matter of a short time until wooden railroad ties will be a curiosity. The concrete age is upon us, and only by extensive use of concrete can forests be conserved."

Mexican Power net earnings in January were $588,800, an increase of $58,449.

The revised census figures give this Province a population of 2,002,712, Montreal 470,480, Quebec city 78,190.

Wisdom is cherished by the few, neglected by the many, and hired by the powerful — "Life."

PACIFIC BURT EARNINGS.

THE shareholders of the Pacific Burt Co. had reason to be pleased with the report presented at the first annual meeting. The prospectus estimated the earnings at some $66,000 a year, whereas they were over $77,000 for the last 12 months' period, or some 15 p.c. higher than the estimates when the company was formed.

The total earnings for the 15 months were over $97,000. This is at the rate of about 12 p.c. on the preferred and 5 per cent on the common after the preferred dividend is paid. Mr. S. J. Moore is president of the company.

MOUNT ROYAL ASSURANCE.

THE Mount Royal Assurance Co. reports net premiums for the year of $172,884.

The interest from investments and profits amounted to $38,893.19, thus making the total net income $211,777.83. The losses, after making ample provision for outstanding claims, amount to $93,443.93, showing a loss ratio of 54.39 p.c. of the premium income