

# The Monetary Times

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\$2 A YEAR  
IN ADVANCE.

## CONTENTS

	Page.		Page.		Page.
Clearing House Figures .....	863	Premium Rebating to be Stopped. ....	866	Insure Your Stock .....	874
The Fire Loss for 1905 .....	863	Building in Montreal .....	866	Loss of Life on Our Great Lakes. ....	876
Stock Exchange Transactions ....	864	York County Loan Company ....	867	British Columbia Matters .....	876
Boot and Shoe and Allied Trades. ....	864	Fire Insurance Items .....	867	Our Australian Letter .....	876
Usury in Montreal .....	865	Banking and Financial .....	867	Toronto's Growth .....	878
The Coming Forestry Convention .....	865	Grocers and Provision Dealers ...	868	Commercial Travellers' Association .....	878
Different Kinds of Loan Companies .....	866	Affairs in Nova Scotia .....	872	Municipal Good Resolutions .....	878
		Our North of England Letter ....	872	National Bank of Scotland .....	889

### BANK CLEARINGS FOR 1905.

The returns of its bank clearing-houses are always a good index of the activity of a country's commerce; and if any evidence were wanting to support the general opinion of Canadians that 1905 has been an extremely busy and progressive year in the business of this country it is found in the extremely large clearings of the twelve months. Those of Montreal advanced from \$1,065,067,000 in 1904 to \$1,325,303,000 last year, and those of Toronto from \$842,097,000 in 1904 to \$1,047,490,000 last year, showing in each case an increase of 20 per cent. Winnipeg clearings were \$369,868,000, a gain of almost one-fourth, Ottawa has been making great strides in recent months, possibly because of considerable lumber transactions, and stands now next to Winnipeg among Canadian cities, with clearings in 1905 of no less than \$120,891,876. The transactions of these four represent 85 per cent. of the clearings of the whole eleven Canadian clearing houses.

Clearings at:	1905.
Montreal .....	\$1,325,303,000
Toronto .....	1,047,490,701
Winnipeg .....	369,868,179
Ottawa .....	120,891,876
Halifax .....	89,251,562
Hamilton .....	68,385,601
St. John .....	52,836,333
Vancouver .....	88,460,390
Victoria .....	36,890,464
Quebec .....	86,794,553
London .....	50,429,511
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$3,336,602,170</b>

### THE FIRE LOSS FOR 1905.

Excepting years in which occurred great conflagrations, the year 1905 shows a larger amount lost in fires than in any previous period in the history of the United States and Canada. Seeing that there were no extremely large fires, the "New York Journal of Commerce," from which we take some figures, attributes this heavy valuation of the property destroyed to an increased number of medium-sized fires, and to the increased value of stocks. The following are the figures in detail of losses by fire for each month in the United States and the Dominion:

	1903.	1904.	1905.
January .....	\$13,166,350	\$21,970,200	\$16,378,100
February .....	16,090,000	90,051,000	25,561,000
March .....	9,907,650	11,212,150	14,751,400
April .....	13,549,000	23,623,000	11,901,350
May .....	16,366,800	15,221,400	12,736,250
June .....	14,648,350	10,646,700	11,789,800
July .....	12,838,600	11,923,200	13,173,250
August .....	8,428,350	9,715,200	11,435,600
September .....	9,939,450	14,387,650	13,715,250
October .....	10,409,800	12,866,200	12,267,000
November .....	13,589,550	11,515,000	16,178,200
December .....	17,224,700	19,423,350	15,276,600*
<b>Total for year .....</b>	<b>\$156,195,600</b>	<b>\$252,364,050</b>	<b>\$175,157,800</b>

\*Estimated.

In spite of the heaviness of the losses, however, the year is not looked upon as an unsatisfactory one by the fire insurance companies. Rates in general have been adequate, security values have advanced, and the consequence is that so far as net results are concerned, underwriters look on 1905 as one of the best years experienced in a decade.