the West, some time in the near future. A couple of properties have been under exploration since last fall and the analyses indicate that the constituents of the shales and limestone are such as would make a good Portland. The province is rich in shale deposits and the discovery of this ledge of pure limestone makes them valuable to cement manufacturers.

It is thought that if the negotiations now in progress go through, that the Canada Cement Company will move one of their eastern plants, some of which are now idle, to the West. Whether the plant will be installed at Winnipeg or farther west, at the point where the raw material is secured, will depend entirely upon freight rates. As a large amount of the work about a modern cement plant is carried on by machinery, the company should be in a position to sell the product of such a plant at a rate somewhat below the prices which now carry.

A Brilliant Artist to Visit Vancouver.

A brilliant Ayrshire artist, Mr. George Houston, A.R.S.A., will visit Vancouver in a few days.

Mr. Houston, is most widely known by his landscapes, most of which treat of the scenery of Ayrshire.

NOVA SCOTIA FIRE INSURANCE ACT.

An attempt was recently made to amend the Nova Scotia Statutory conditions so as to enable the mortgagee to make out proofs of loss in case of damage by fire, instead of by the owner of the property, which existing conditions require.

Mr. W. E. Thompson, agent of the Law Union & Rock, Halifax, and some other prominent insurance men were given a hearing before the committee, when the Bill was introduced with the result that the committee decided the Bill be given a three months hoist. It is hoped that nothing further will be heard about the Bill.

FIRE AT MANOR, SASK.

On the 2nd instant, a fire occurred in Manor, Sask., resulting in the destruction of the Hotel Manor, Hewitt's hardware store and Sharpe & Co's general store. The fire originated in Hewitt's store from some unknown cause.

The following companies are interested:

Canadian Fire	$3,500	North-West	$ 2,000
Commercial Union	3,000	Central Canada	1,000
N. York Underwriters	1,500	Law Union	2,500
Caledonian	1,600	Western	2,000
Phœnix of London	1,000	Winnipeg	3,500
Hartford	7,000		
General	2,500	Total	$33,300
London & Lancs	2,200		

FIRE AT GALT, ONT.

On the 8th instant, Scott's Opera House at Galt was completely gutted by fire, partially covered by insurance. A defective wire is thought to have caused the blaze. The building was a solid three storey red brick, owned by James Scott Waterloo, insured for $10,000, divided between the Economical & London Mutual. The other insurances Anglo-American, $1,000, and Dominion, $1,000; and Economical, $1,000.

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO.

Results Reported at the Annual Meeting held recently.

The 84th Annual General Meeeting of the Standard Life Assurance Company was held at Edinburgh, on Tuesday, 5th April, 1910.

The following principal results for the year ended 15th November, 1909, were reported:

Amount of Assurance accepted during the year, for which 4 273 Policies were issued		$10,219,951
Of this amount there was Re assured with other Offices		708,426
Leaving Net amount of New Assurances for the year		$9,511,525
Corresponding Premium Revenue on New Policies during the year:—		
Annual Premiums		$400,045
Single Premiums		37,380
		437,825
Less Premiums on Amount Re-assured		39,483
Leaving Net Premiums Revenue on New Assurances		$397,942
Amount received in purchase of Annuities:		
Single payments	$378,758	
Annual Premiums	11,981	
		390,739
Claims under Policies during the year, inclusive of Bonus Additions:—		
By Death	$3,561,704	
By Survivance	974,301	
		$4,536,005
Subsisting Assurances at 15th November, 1909, exclusive of Bonus Additions		$141,255,968
Accumulated Funds at 15th November, 1909, after deducting Current Liabilies		$61,082,365

The Addition to the Accumulated Funds during the year was.......$1,236.464.

The average rate of Interest realized on the Funds was 4.29 per cent., subject to deduction of Income Tax.

Revenue for the Year.......$7,408,273

INCREASE OF BANK BRANCHES IN WEST.

With the publication of the particulars of the branch bank extension movement for March, it is seen that the total number of establishments has risen to 2,298, of which all but 50 are in the Dominion. Of the 32 new branches opened during March, Saskatchewan got 8, Alberta and British Columbia 5 each, and Manitoba, 4. That makes 22 in Western Canada; and, as 3 Western branches were closed, the net gain stands at 19. In the East ten new offices were opened and three closed. This shows conclusively enough how fully the Western development is engaging the attention of the bankers. The Commerce was most active in regard to opening new offices, having 5 branches to its credit. The Merchants was second with 4. The British and United Empire each opened 3. The branches established by the first three banks were all in Western Canada. Withdrawal from Elk Lake and Gowganda by the Royal Bank constitutes an unfavourable sign regarding those two mining fields.

THE CLERKS in the Brooklyn office of the Hartford Fire have sent a handsome wall clock to the home office in commemoration of the company's centennial year.