

CANADIAN BANKER'S ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the above Association was held in Montreal, this week, commencing on Wednesday, with a meeting of the Executive Council; Mr. D. Coulson in the Chair. The members were entertained by the Montreal General Managers, to a luncheon at the Mount Royal Club. At the annual meeting yesterday, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

HONORARY PRESIDENTS.

Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, president Bank of Montreal.

George Hague, Montreal.

PRESIDENT.

E. S. Clouston, general manager Bank of Montreal.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Duncan Coulson, general manager Bank of Toronto.

George Burn, general manager Bank of Ottawa.

H. Stikeman, general manager Bank of British North America.

M. J. A. Prendergast, general manager Banque d'Hoche-
laga.

COUNCIL.

B. E. Walker, general manager Canadian Bank of Commerce.

Thos. Ryshe, general manager Merchants Bank of Canada.

D. R. Wilkie, general manager Imperial Bank of Canada.

Thos. McDougall, general manager Quebec Bank.

Jas. MacKinnon, general manager E. Townships Bank.

W. E. Stavert, manager Bank of New Brunswick.

Jas. Elliott, general manager The Moisons Bank.

P. A. Lafrance, general manager La Banque Nationale.

H. C. McLeod, general manager Bank of Nova Scotia.

T. G. Brough, general manager Dominion Bank.

E. L. Pease, general manager Royal Bank of Canada.

E. E. Webb, general manager Union Bank of Canada.

D. R. Clarke, cashier Peoples Bank of Halifax.

H. S. Strathy, general manager Traders' Bank of Canada.

In the absence of the President (Mr. E. S. Clouston), in Europe, there was no presidential address delivered. The meeting confined itself to discussing banking and financial matters, and was presided over by Mr. Duncan Coulson, general manager, Bank of Toronto.

Mr. John Knight acted as secretary of the meeting.

The minutes of the previous annual meeting were read and confirmed, and the Executive Committee submitted their report, which was approved.

The Montreal General Managers entertained the visiting members to a banquet at St. James' Club last night, at which the Hon. Mr. Fielding, Finance Minister, was a guest. We append a list of members present at the meeting.

M. J. A. Prendergast, general manager Banque d'Hoche-
laga.

B. E. Walker, general manager Can. Bank of Commerce.

Thos. Ryshe, general manager Merchants Bank of Canada.

Duncan Coulson, general manager Bank of Toronto.

D. R. Wilkie, general manager Imperial Bank of Canada.

George Burn, general manager Bank of Ottawa.

Thos. McDougall, general manager Quebec Bank.

H. C. McLeod, general manager Bank of Nova Scotia.

J. Turnbull, general manager Bank of Hamilton.

Chas. McGill, general manager Ontario Bank.

W. A. Moreau, cashier La Banque de St. Hyacinthe.

G. H. Balfour, act'g. general manager Union Bank of Can.

T. H. McMillan, cashier Western Bank of Canada.

T. G. Brough, general manager Dominion Bank.

E. L. Pease, general manager Royal Bank of Canada.

N. Lavoie, inspector La Banque Nationale.

D. M. Stewart, general manager Sovereign Bank of Can.

W. D. Ross, general manager Metropolitan Bank.

T. Johns, cashier Bank of Yarmouth.

Geo. P. Reid, general manager Standard Bank of Canada.

H. S. Strathy, general manager Traders' Bank of Canada.

H. Stikeman, general manager Bank of B. N. America.

W. E. Stavert, manager Bank of New Brunswick.

Jas. Elliott, general manager The Moisons Bank.

Jas. MacKinnon, general manager Eastern Twps. Bank.

D. R. Clarke, cashier People's Bank of Halifax.

P. L'Heureux, cashier Banque de St. Jean.

F. H. Mathewson, manager Bank of Commerce, Montreal.

A. Macnider, Bank of Montreal.

George Hague, Montreal.

W. M. Ramsay, Mr. Muir, Merchants Bank, and others.

At the close of the meeting, Mr. B. E. Walker voiced the general feelings of the members, in expressing their very great regret that the condition of Mr. Clouston's health deprived them of his presence.

THE OCTOBER FIRE LOSS.

The fire losses of the United States and Canada during the month of October, as compiled from the carefully-kept records of the "Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin," show an aggregate of \$10,409,800. The following comparative table shows the losses for the first ten months of 1901, 1902 and 1903:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.
January	\$13,166,350	\$15,032,800	\$16,574,950
February	16,090,800	21,010,500	13,992,000
March	9,907,650	12,056,600	15,036,250
April	13,549,000	13,894,600	11,352,800
May	16,366,800	14,866,000	22,380,150
June	14,684,350	10,245,350	9,590,000
July	12,838,600	10,028,000	15,740,060
August	8,428,350	7,425,550	8,334,000
September	9,939,450	9,945,000	7,645,200
October	10,409,800	9,593,300	14,749,900
Totals	\$125,381,450	\$124,097,700	\$135,395,250

The important fires during the month of October were the following:—

Missouri Valley, Iowa, grain elevator	\$250,000
Aberdeen, Wash., business section of town	540,000
Beaumont, Tex., rice mill	157,000
Macon, Miss., cotton compress	175,000
Ashland, Wis., business block	150,000

It will be noted that the total loss for the first ten months of 1903 is over a million more than for the same period of 1902, but this is probably not out of proportion to the increase in burnable values throughout the country. November has opened up quite extensively as regards fire losses, and the West of late has not been profitable to the fire underwriters. Taken altogether, however, the year so far has been more favourable to the insurance companies than some previous ones, except as far as the fall in security values affects their net surpluses.