pany declared dividends of $37,742 to policy-holders, and of $29,260 to shareholders, and now has the exceptionally large ratio of 4.48 per cent. to amount of risks in force at credit of profit and loss account alone. And Mr. Wyld, after condemning unprofitable methods, urges increased rates on special hazards and the periodical inspection of risks. He advises most strongly that the expense of conducting business by the companies in general should be reduced, and concludes, after noting that expenses cost the companies one dollar out of every three dollars premium: "Surely this is far too high, and if a saving of from 5 to 10% can be made in this direction, and we know it can be, it would go far to make the business a profitable one, as it should be to those who contribute to so useful a purpose as indemnity from loss by fire."

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The production of caviare in Ontario waters increased from 21,414 pounds in 1899, to 90,761 pounds in 1900.

A fire starting from electric light wires did some $8,000 worth of damage to the Lawry pork packing house in Hamilton this week.

We are advised that the late firm of Chas. Langlois & Cie, provision dealers, Montreal, has been amalgamated with Messrs. Gunn, of the Toronto firm of D. Gunn, Bros. & Co., Toronto, and that a company has been formed under the style of the Gunn-Langlois Company, limited, with a capital of $250,000, to carry on the combined businesses.

As an illustration of the waning practical interests of the French in the shores of Newfoundland, it is stated that whereas in 1848 they employed 360 bankers (large boats of over 200 tons), employing some 17,000 men, and caught 1,200,000 quintals of lobsters, at present the annual catch is only about 300,000 quintals, and the men employed do not number more than 7,000.

The report of the Ontario Department of Fisheries for last year shows that the catch of all kinds of fish in the province was 25,147,191 pounds, compared with 27,034,283 pounds in the previous year. The falling off is due to stormy weather and to the drawing off of fishermen to the lumbering and mining industries. The total value of the fish caught last year was $1,333,293, and the value of the equipment in use was $994,269, while 2,499 men were engaged.

The annual meeting of the Guelph Fat Stock Club was held on the 5th inst., and after the reading of the usual reports, which were considered very satisfactory, the following officers were elected: Mr. J. M. Duff, manager of the Bank of Commerce, president; Mr. Robert Strachan, 1st vice-president; Mr. John Tyson, 2nd vice-president. Hon. presidents, Messrs. James Millar, Thomas Holliday, E. P. Hawkins and R. Cunningham.

American canned-meat dealers are complaining that their packers put prices so high in anticipation of requirements for the British troops in South Africa that it enabled the Canadian, Argentina and Australian dealers to underbid them, and eventually take away the bulk of their trade. Recently some 7,000 cases of canned beef were shipped from this country to South Africa, by way of New York, which was more than had been sent there by American dealers for six months or more.

A shipment was made from Toronto to England last week of four car-loads of dressed beef, which, if successful, is expected to lead to the establishment of a new industry of considerable proportions. It is believed that 10,000 quarters per week could be disposed of in Great Britain. Letters of incorporation are being asked for a new company, to be known as the Harris Abattoir Company, capital $1,000,000, which proposes to carry on the business on an extensive scale. Provisional directors are, Messrs. J. W. Flavelle, Wm. Davies, E. Adie, W. Harris, W. T. Harris and J. Harris.

—The deposits on hand in the Dominion Government savings banks on December 31 last stood at $15,706,285. During the month of January they amounted to $240,821 additional, and in the same period the sum of $218,582 was withdrawn, making a balance in all of $15,728,524.

—It is with deep regret that Canadians of all classes and scientists in all parts of the world have heard of the death, which took place from acute bronchitis, on the 2nd inst., of Dr. Geo. Mercer Dawson, son of the late Sir William Dawson, and head of the Geological Survey of Canada. Dr. Dawson was born at Pictou, N.S., and was educated in Canada, in Scotland and in the Royal School of Mines, London, of which he was an associate. His first scientific appointment was as geologist and botanist to the British North American Boundary Commission in 1873-4. In 1891, he was appointed one of the Behring Sea Commissioners, and made extended observations on the life and history of the fur seal. He was president of the Royal Society of Canada in 1894, and was the recipient of several medals from scientific societies. Latest reports from Ottawa stated that Dr. Dawson is to be probably succeeded as director of the Geological Survey by Dr. Robert Bell, assistant director.

—It is worthy of notice as a proof of the attention that Canadian educational institutions are attracting in foreign countries, to know that a group of young gentlemen from the Argentine Republic of South America are at present attending the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. In the summer of 1900 Messrs. Juan B. Rivara, Bustamente, Fernandez, Pinelo, Ibanez, Echegary, de Corioles, Peltzer, and Cesare Avala, who, we are told, are all of good families in their native Argentine, were sent out by the Government of that country with the purpose of ascertaining where they could best study the latest developments in agriculture. They chose to come to Canada, and are taking a course of several years in practical farming and the study of chemistry and plant growth at the O. A. C. On their return to their native land they purpose putting into practice the knowledge acquired here.

—For the first time in the history of the New York Clearing House, the billion dollar mark in deposits was passed, during a recent week. New York banks now hold nearly half the total amount of money in circulation in the United States. The treasury department's last statement showed that this circulation amounts to $2,190,780,000, or about $28.38 per capita of population.

—A review of the report of the Guelph and Ontario Investment Society, published to-day, appeared in a previous issue.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, March 7th, 1901, compared with those of the previous week:

Clearings.	March 7, 1901.	Feb. 28, 1901.
Montreal	$16,163,291	$12,858,652
Toronto	11,915,718	11,145,956
Winnipeg	2,145,911	1,745,816
Halifax	1,606,218	1,903,998
Hamilton	917,509	658,032
St. John	734,492	611,308
Vancouver	720,940	621,793
Victoria	577,174	394,128
	$34,781,253	$29,939,683

Aggregate balances, this week, $........ last week, $4,723,866

TORONTO GENERAL TRUSTS CORPORATION.

The second annual meeting of the shareholders of the Toronto General Trusts Corporation (being the nineteenth of the Toronto General Trusts Company), was held in the board room of the corporation on the corner of Yonge and Colborne street, Toronto, on Wednesday, the 27th February. There were present: John Hoskin, Esq., K.C.; Hon. S. C. Wood, Mr. W. H. Beatty, the Hon. Mr. Justice Maclennan, Messrs. Walter Barwick, K.C., John L. Blaikie, E. H. Bickford, B. E. Bull, R. K. Burgess, James Davey, Dr. Digby (Brantford), J. J. Foy, K.C., Robert Jaffray, William Gordon, Henry Gooderham, Edward Galley, E. R. Greig, John Gowans, Alfred Hoskin, K.C., J. J. Kenny, A. B. Lee, Thos. Long, J. W. Langmuir, A. D. Langmuir, W. D. Matthews, E. T. Malone, K.C., Donald Mackay, Alexander Nairn, S. Nordheimer, Thomas Paterson, George Porter, T. Sutherland Stayner, J. G. Scott, K.C., and R. S. Schell.

Mr. J. W. Langmuir, the managing director, acted as secretary and submitted the statements, showing the operations of the corporation for the year ended 31st December, 1900.

The report of the directors for the year was then read, as follows: