

forty miles north of New Liskeard, and it is graded for thirty miles still farther north, which takes the road beyond the height of land.

—Among other interesting statements which have been made before the Tariff Commission, was one by the Lake Superior Corporation, to the effect that a coke plant would be built to supply the coke for use in connection with the steel plant of that concern, and another that the directors had authorized the construction of open-hearth blast furnaces for the manufacture of steel for rails and structural purposes. The open-hearth furnaces would use the ore from the Helen mine, which cannot be used in the Bessemer plant which the company has. Representatives of the corporation stated that if the location of the coke plant depends upon the result of a request made by them that the duty on soft coal used for coking purposes be removed. If it is removed the company will build its plant on the Canadian side of the river. Otherwise it will be located in the Michigan Soo. The building of a coke plant here would mean the employment of 300 men, and the expenditure in Canada of an additional \$1,500 daily, which now goes to United States railways to pay the transportation charges on coke brought from the Pennsylvania and Virginia fields. The consumption of coke at the company's plant amounts to 500 tons daily.

—The oil fields of the Far West seem to be looming larger as a possible important additional source of wealth to that section of the Dominion. A year ago Alfred von Hammerstein interested capital in some oil deposits he had discovered down the Athabasca River, west and north of Edmonton. The result of their work of developing them is not definitely known, but it is believed to be promising. In Alberta, on the border of the State of Montana, several

large wells have been struck, and one of them is reported to flow at the rate of 300,000 gallons per day, [We do not vouch for the figures.] A thriving town has now grown up at the wells, which is known as Oil City, and already the population of the little oil centre is nearing three thousand. At the present time several railroad companies are having surveys made to the new fields, and it is believed to be their intention to build to the oil districts as early as possible in the spring. Geologists and oil experts claim that there is an immense underground lake connecting the wells struck in Alberta and Athabasca, although they are over 1,000 miles apart.

#### CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

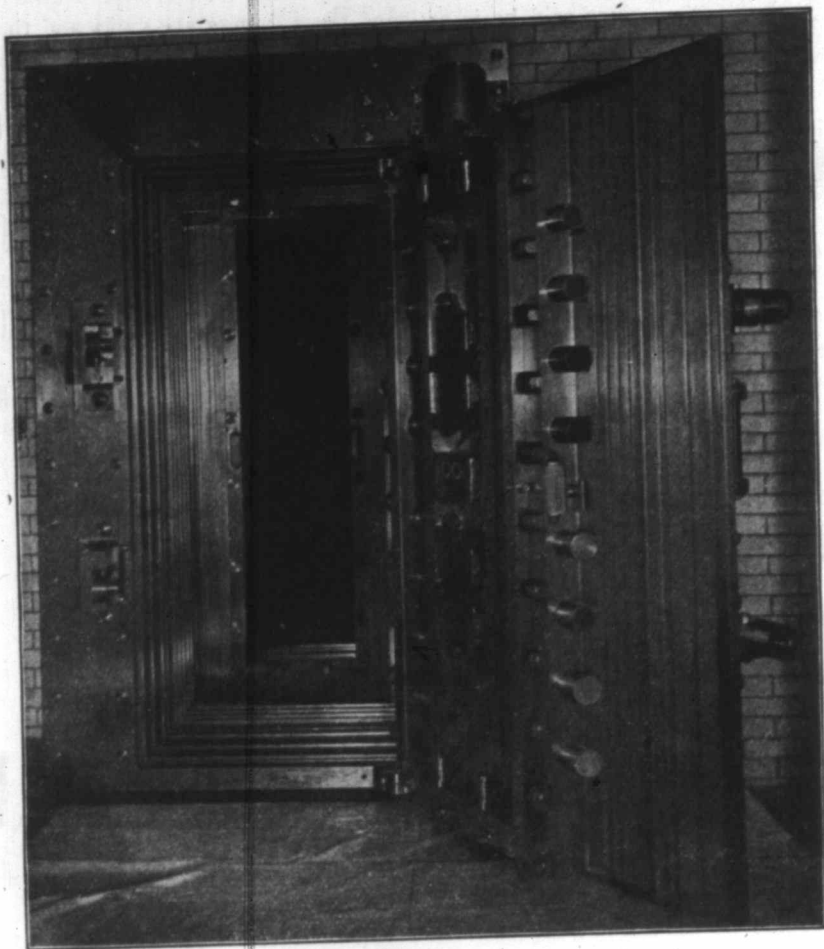
The following are the figures of the Canadian Clearing Houses for the week ending with Thursday, December 28th, 1905, as compared with those of the previous week:—

It will be noted that the figures for this week are considerably less than last week's, which is accounted for by Monday's holiday.

	Dec. 28.	Dec. 21.
Montreal .....	\$21,843,888	\$28,463,149
Toronto .....	18,653,377	22,614,118
Winnipeg .....	7,939,998	9,820,272
Halifax .....	1,468,574	1,890,143
Hamilton .....	1,328,717	1,558,668
St. John .....	917,906	1,185,823
Vancouver .....	1,873,207	2,028,366
Victoria .....	504,577	781,797
Quebec .....	1,635,802	1,921,179
Ottawa .....	2,135,167	2,809,661
London .....	984,603	1,004,389
Total .....	\$59,282,816	\$74,077,565

#### PURSES DROPPED BY THE WAY.

"Ladies, while on shopping tours, frequently leave their pocketbooks on our counters," said the manager of the department store, "and there is not a week passes that we do not restore to our patrons hundreds of dollars. About a year ago two young ladies from St. Paul, on their way to Covington, where one was to spend the season in the hope of staving off the ravages of consumption, bought a large bill of dry goods from us. They were sisters. After they had been gone from the store five minutes one returned in a frenzy of excitement. She had missed her purse, containing all her earthly possessions. There was \$500 in it, money that she was to spend in an effort to prolong the life of her only sister. I calmed the lady, and told her I would do everything in my power to recover the money. I went to the counter where the purchases had been made. One of the girl clerks was missing. This looked suspicious. I enquired her whereabouts, and was told that she and one of the floorwalkers had followed a negro man out through the rear door. The negro had picked a purse off the floor. I took up the trail, leaving the lady who had lost the money seated in the store. I found the clerk and the floor walker and the negro. The latter had been corralled in a bar-room a block away. He was found in a rear room counting over the money.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.



Vault doors in Bank of Montreal and Royal Trust Company, Montreal. Three times larger and heavier than any other in Canada. Doors and Vestibules weigh **60 tons**. Total weight of lining and doors **260 tons**. Accepted to be the finest piece of vault work in construction and workmanship in the Dominion. — Built by the old established firm of

**J. & J. TAYLOR, Toronto Safe Works, Toronto.**

Established 1855.

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