

THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS BANK will open a branch on St. James St., in this city on 10th May, in the premises recently vacated by the Victoria-Montreal Insurance Company.

THE REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS in this city and Westmount, in March last, amounted to \$665,184, as against \$911,482 in same month last year, as reported in the "Real Estate Record."

THE WESTERN BANK OF CANADA held its annual meeting on the 10th inst., when the net earnings for the year were announced to have been \$44,131; 11 per cent. on average paid-up capital.

THE CALEDONIAN INSURANCE COMPANY is preparing to erect a fine modern twelve-story office building on its lot at Nos. 50 and 52 Pine street, New York, where a building is being pulled down that was an eye-sore.

A TORONTO VISITOR to this city this week remarked: "What's amiss with you people at Montreal, if our Toronto streets were as dirty as yours there would be a riot, we wouldn't stand such neglect by the city's servants, not for one day."

A VESSEL LEAVING the western port of Lake Superior might sail 2,260 miles east and south all the way through Canadian waters, until it reached the Atlantic. A trip by water all the way around the British Isles would be about half that length.

TWENTY CENT PIECES here and in Toronto are circulating in large numbers, as well as plugged coins. Both are a great nuisance and a source of loss to the unwary. The government should take some steps to protect the public from these coins being palmed off upon them.

SIR ROBERT GILLESPIE, who died a few days ago, was well known in Canada. He was formerly a partner in the Montreal firm, Gillespie, Moffatt & Co., was a director of the Grand Trunk, and President of the Canada Land Company and of the Bank of British Columbia.

THE GOLD AND SILVER in principal banks of Europe, by latest advices, amounted to \$395,428,000, of which the Bank of England held \$31,889,000 in gold; France, \$78,450,000 gold and \$44,769,000 silver; Germany, \$40,795,000, gold and silver; Russia, \$82,415,000 gold, and \$7,000,000 silver.

A GERMAN NEWSPAPER has been considerate enough to advise large cities on this continent to adopt the German system of having a regular paid fire brigade instead of relying upon volunteers. We return the compliment by advising our German contemporary to get posted in regard to conditions existing in trans-Atlantic cities.

THE FOLLOWING CANADIANS have been made members of the military division of the third class of the Companions of the Bath are Col. C. W. Drury, of the Canadian Artillery, and Col. W. D. Otter, of the 1st Canadian contingent, and Lieut.-Cols. T. D. B. Evans, of the Canadian Dragoons, and S. B. Steele, of Strathcona's Horse. Lt.-Col. Girouard has been appointed a Knight of the Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George.

THE PACIFIC CABLE BOARD is stated by the "Canadian Gazette" to have been organized with Lord Strathcona as the representative of Canada. The cable is said to be under construction, the contract price being, \$8,975,000, the work to be completed by midsummer, 1902.

THE CREDITORS OF THE FARMERS' LOAN CO., Toronto, which collapsed some time ago, will probably receive 80 per cent. of their claims. Toronto real estate has so advanced since the failure as to raise the assets greatly in value. The company owed its failure to being too free with advances on suburban properties during the "boom."

THE VICTORIA CROSS has been conferred upon Lieuts. H. Z. C. Cockburn, R. E. W. Turner, and Sergeant Holland, of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, for conspicuous bravery at Komatipoort, South Africa, on Nov. 7, 1900, in protecting artillery from capture. They took up a position as rear guard when the guns were in danger and fought until they were surrounded and cut off. Lieutenant Cockburn is a son of Mr. G. R. R. Cockburn, of Toronto, President of the Ontario Bank, and ex-member for Centre Toronto.

BANK CLEARINGS IN NEW YORK last week, as reported by the "Commercial and Financial Chronicle," were 75.1 per cent. higher than in same week 1900. Those in Boston were 30.5; in St. Louis, 41.4; in New Orleans, 43.6; in Philadelphia, 19.4; Baltimore, 9.5; and Chicago, 8.2 per cent. greater than in same week last year. The total clearings at New York for week ending 13th April amounted to \$2,148,247,450. The enormous stock in transactions in New York so greatly swell the returns of that city, that the comparison of the respective amounts of the trade done in other cities with New York is misleading.

A MINING OPERATOR from Dawson City, named Arden, is reported in the "New York Journal of Commerce" to have said that the clean up this year in the Dawson camp would, from a conservative estimate, amount to \$30,000,000, making it the biggest output in the history of the Klondike. He also says that the new strike in Eldorado, below the level of the old bed-rock, is not in the least exaggerated. He is taking to London samples of the quartz from the ledge lately struck in the country rock, and which comes from Victoria Gulch on Bonanza Creek to Eldorado. This quartz, which is said to be fabulously rich in free milling gold, Mr. Arden thinks, will raise the Dawson camp a great deal in the estimation of the financial centres of the world.

AN ABERDEEN journal, quoted by "The Insurance Observer," mentions that a well-known and highly respected Edinburgh insurance official has passed away in Mr. John Hamilton, late fire superintendent of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, who died at his residence, Edinburgh, on the 13th ult. Over forty-six years ago Mr. Hamilton entered the service of the then North British Company, and by energy and business tact rose to the position he ultimately occupied. Declining health compelled him to retire about the end of last year, the occasion being recognized by a handsome testimonial subscribed for by the officials and members of the staffs throughout the United Kingdom. He is survived by a widow and six of a family, all grown up.