

## Notes and Items.

### At Home and Abroad.

THE NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE is reported as arranging to take over the Germania of New Orleans.

THE CITIZENS INSURANCE CO of Pittsburg has been absorbed by the Phoenix of Hartford. Last year's premiums were \$235,231.

CABLE RATES to England are regarded by an English Parliamentary Committee as likely to be soon reduced to six pence per word.

THE BANK OF COMMERCE has declared a dividend for current half year of 7 per cent., payable 1st June next. The annual meeting will be held on 18th June.

THE METROPOLITAN STREET RAILWAY, New York, has been condemned to pay \$30,000 to widow of G. B. Rhoads, killed by one of its cars when running at a reckless speed.

THE GLASGOW EXHIBITION was opened in the name of the King on 2nd inst., by the Duke and Duchess of Fife. The Exhibition is said to be very similar to the recent one at Paris. The Canadian section is a prominent feature.

THE BANK OF HOCHELAGA has moved into more commodious offices a little further east on St. James St., in this city, and their old premises are being used temporarily by the Ontario Bank, whose offices in the old Royal building are being pulled down.

THE RECENT CENSUS gives London, England, a population of 4,589,129. Melbourne, Australia, under the new Census, has 493,956, and Sydney, 488,968. While we are getting Census figures from England and other colonies the Canadian officials are still at work collecting information.

THE MANHATTAN FIRE INSURANCE CO. is declared, after examination by the New York insurance department, to have had its capital wiped out. The Superintendent has ordered the shareholders to replace the capital and to return \$40,000 paid as dividends last year, as such dividends were not earned.

THE ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY is actively preparing for the erection of its new office building in this city, which will have the handsomest suite of offices in Canada. The staff and books of the Lancashire have been removed here from Toronto so the urgency of more accommodation is being felt more than ever.

THE QUEBEC CLEARING HOUSE issued its first return as follows:

Total for week ending May 7, 1901.	CLEARINGS. \$1,529,693	BALANCES. \$293,624
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Mr. W. H. Scott is the manager.

FIRE INSURANCE AGENTS in Kansas seem to have peculiar ideas as to the obligations of agency. They have formally agreed as a body, in case a certain Bill is passed by the state legislature, "to make the insurance rates on the property of Kansas City without reference to or influence of the companies we represent, or any others not members of our association, and that if under threat of compulsion we shall be urged to yield for such influence, we shall refuse to act, and thereupon dissolve the board."

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, was nearly destroyed by fire on 3rd inst. There were 20 blocks burnt including the well known St. James Hotel, which was a popular resort of winter visitors to Florida. Several other hotels and the theatre were wrecked, also a number of the leading commercial buildings of the city. The fire broke out in the Cleveland Fibre Company's factory. The wind being high at the time the local fire brigade was unable to keep the flames from spreading over a wide area.

THE ULTRA CONSERVATISM of the English people which leads to the retention of customs which in more go-ahead countries have given way to more useful ones is illustrated by the London fire brigades having only last month equipped their fire engines with alarm bells. Our London namesake tells us in a recent issue that, "The familiar 'Yi, yi, yi!' shout of the London fire brigades will soon be a thing of the past. On the occasion of an alarm in the east end, many of the steamers were provided yesterday with new alarm bells. As they dashed through the city one heard the innovation highly commended, every one expressing the opinion that it was a vast improvement on the terror inspiring yells of the firemen, who one and all, hailed the bells with delight. This is scarcely to be wondered at, seeing that the men have often become not only hoarse after an active day's duty in consequence of shouting, but in many instances, have seriously overstrained their vocal chords."

MESSRS. FETHERSTONHAUGH & Co., Canada Life Building, furnish us with the following complete weekly list of Patents granted to Canadians in the following countries. Any further information may be readily obtained from them direct. Canadian Patents.—L. M. Jones, C. McLeod and W. J. Clokey, Drives for Aprons for harvester binders, Disc Drills, Mowers, Cultivators, Reaping Machines; A. P. Gill, Combined plate and film cameras; G. H. Stokoe, Milk account books; W. A. Simister, Cheese boxes; I. N. Kendall, Saw mill slab grinders; T. Bell, Moth proof bags; J. Clark, Grain car doors; J. Booker, Cooking stoves connected to a heating furnace; E. Currie, Ties; A. J. Greenaway, Flush tank valves; W. J. Washbrood, Casters; N. Dussault, Hand last-ing tools; E. J. Arthur, Gates and doors; L. A. Desy; Dredges; J. R. Hislop, Machine for harvesting sugar beets and turnips; F. E. Ramsay and F. E. Sloan, Holders for use in shining boots; W. W. Alton, Window sash locks; W. O. Roy, Permanent foundation posts; J. J. Collins, Process of heating and drying compressed air; C. M. Hurlbut, and C. E. Hurlbut, Attachments and clips for men's belts.