tract, and if taken into court it does not require endless litigation to secure a decision.

A well-known underwriter believes the situation governing the earthquake hazard may be handled in a similar manner to that of Consequential Damage. It will be recalled that when this subject was one of doubt and litigation, efforts were made to change the standard policy by the insertion of a clause covering same, but it was finally decided to attach a rider to the contract covering this risk, where the assured was willing to pay an extra premium for it. Each company could then make its own choice and the standard policy remained intact.

The Pacific Coast condition could be handled in a like way. Under the present form the "falling building" clause applies, whether the collapse of a structure is the result of an explosion, inferior construction, slipping of the earth beneath the foundation, over-loading the building or earthquake. By including the latter the company assumes a new risk for which the assured should pay an additional premium, and, therefore, it should be a specific and definite contract, attached to the standard form in the shape of a rider. Under such a method, it would be optional whether a company assumed such a risk or not, while the acceptance of a rider by the assured, at an increased premium, would indicate that the earthquake hazard was not included in the principal contract. The intent of an insurance company in the event of litigation would be clear and explicit.

We believe that underwriters in general should act cautiously in the matter, and not destroy the great advantage secured in the adoption of a standard policy not an advantage over the assured, but in knowing that similar conditions will prevail in all contracts when adjustments are to be made. —"The Chronicle," New York.

DOMINION JULY TRADE.

Canada's foreign trade for July amounted to $41,996,228, or $9,336,307 better than for last July. The imports totalled $23,652,122, and the domestic exports $16,549,548, increases of $5,172,357 and $3,500,000, respectively. The biggest gain in exports amounts to $1,555,421 for animals and their products, which means money in the pockets of the farmers. Other gains in exports were:—Mines, $805,481; agricultural products, $920,637; manufacturers, $443,996. Exports of fish products fell $82,245, and lumber decreased $169,001.

The following is a comparative statement for the month, with the changes worked out in percentages:

	Imports. 1905.	1906	Inc. P.C.
Dutiable goods	$11,301,091	$13,438,043	18.9
Free goods	7,124,069	9,830,529	37.9
	$18,425,160	$23,269,472	26.2
Coin and bullion	54,605	382,650	600.7
	$18,479,765	$23,652,122	27.9
Duty collected	3,001,624	3,372,927	12.3
Exports—Domestic—			
Mines	$1,059,062	$1,864,543	75.05
Fisheries	630,225	547,980	13.05*
Forest	3,089,629	2,920,628	5.4*
Animals and their products	5,865,385	7,420,806	23.1
Agriculture	1,190,584	2,111,221	77.3
Manufactures	1,204,859	1,648,855	36.02
Miscellaneous	9,705	35,513	264.8
	$13,149,449	$16,549,548	25.8

* Decrease.

BANK APPOINTMENT.

The vacancy caused by the superannuation of Mr. John C. Kemp, until lately manager of the Toronto branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, has been filled by the appointment of Mr. M. Morris, the assistant manager. Mr. Charles Cambie, the assistant inspector, succeeds Mr. Morris.

MUNICIPAL INSURANCE.

In reply to a request, from the Insurance Press, New York, for an expression of his views, on the question of Municipal Insurance.

Mr. Edward F. Hackett, of the John G. Myers Company, Albany, New York, replied as follows:

"Towns or cities governed as Albany is, and having so many political problems to face, I do not believe could successfully carry on municipal insurance. Suppose such a plan could be started. About the first thing that would have to be done would be the appointment of a commission to be known as an insurance bureau, to manage the business. This would call around a lot of grafters looking for the spoils of office. No matter what party got into power, every change of administration would bring about a repetition of the same practice. If such a bureau and business could be entirely eliminated from politics, it might stand more of a chance, but it could not be. It would eventually dwindle to an asylum for the political spoilsman.

"Again, take the matter of surplus. How long do you suppose a big surplus under municipal control would remain intact? The very stockholders of the insurance would vote to put the money thus laid by into some other department if the funds of such department got low, with the result that the surplus would be speedily dissipated.

"Suppose it did succeed in accumulating a strong surplus, one or two fires of the proportionate loss which attended our concern would speedily send the surplus out of sight, and prove it a losing ven-