of circulation. In 1909, only nine Banks used additional circulation in October and in 1908 only five, so that this year there has been a decided advance in its use. And had this year's Western crops been of the record proportions of 1909, the number of banks using emergency currency in October would doubtless have been considerably enlarged.

Current loans in Canada again advanced during October to the new high figures of $679,820,039. An October increase in these loans is a normal movement, but for crop reasons this month's advance of $10,843,517 naturally compares unfavorably with the increase in this item in October, 1909. Canadian call loans are again up and there is a trifling decrease in foreign call loans. Deposits in Canada have advanced by $10,695,209, but a falling-off of over $13,000,000 in the foreign deposits brings the banks' total deposits, exclusive of Government deposits, somewhat below the September level. The falling-off in these foreign deposits and a coincident heavy decrease in the amount due from banks in the United Kingdom and elsewhere suggests the conclusion of special transactions and the final translation of some "new money" coming to Canada into the form in which it will arrive in the Dominion.

CANADIAN FIRE LOSSES IN 1910.

Fires in Canada during recent months have been very numerous, as the weekly records of THE CHRONICLE show. For the first six months of 1910, we pointed out in August last, the experience of the companies was on the whole favorable, but in the latter half of the year many serious losses have been incurred. Of these the largest is that caused by the wiping-out of Campbellton, N.B., which brought a loss to the companies of little short of $1,500,000. Fortunately this conflagration stands by itself, but there have been numerous other serious losses upon buildings. The Victoria, B.C., fire last month entailed an insurance loss of approximately $450,000; and within a few days recently there were the large fires at Brandon Asylum (with an insurance loss of $260,000), the Macdonald Building, Winnipeg (insurance loss, nearly $220,000) and at the Ontario Wheel Company's factory at Gananoque (insurance loss about $80,000). There was further, a $60,000 loss on Robinson's departmental store at Moose Jaw, Sask., in July. Lumber losses have also been heavy. Apart from the loss caused by the fires in the Rainy River district during the summer, there were in July the two big blazes at Arnprior, Ont., where the insurance loss aggregated $450,000 and Tomiko, Ont., where it was $270,000, while in the same month two British Columbian lumber fires at Golden and Ruskin respectively made a loss for the fire offices of $125,000.

Fires in Montreal have also been too frequent. The Herald disaster, with its terrible loss of life, fortunately, like the Campbellton disaster, stands by itself, but lately we have had in quick succession the King's Hall fire, the burning of the Stadium and the spectacular blaze in Bishop Street—to name only the most prominent losses. Each of these fires has been followed by an enquiry, to which a good deal of publicity has been given, but we have not yet been able to discover what tangible benefit, if any, has resulted from these investigations. It is admitted on all hands that there is a lack of inspection on the part of the civic authorities, and that the Building Inspector's Department at the City Hall is deplorably understaffed. It is to be hoped that, as a result of the attention recently drawn to this subject, there will be organized more efficient civic inspection, alike in the interests of the public, and of the fire offices. And it would probably be a wise step on the part of the offices also to increase their inspection staffs.

An approximate estimate made from THE CHRONICLE'S records shows that the losses of the fire offices in Canada this year to date are between 55 and 60 per cent.

LIFE INSURANCE IN CANADA IN 1909.

The year 1909, it is shown by the newly published report of the Superintendent of Insurance, was a favorable one for the life insurance companies operating in the Dominion. A marked advance in life business was to have been expected, in view of the favoring conditions of 1909—a year of general recovery in trade but without abnormal speculation—and each class of companies has benefited. There was a notable advance in the total amount of policies taken in Canada during the year, this figure standing at $131,739,078, an increase upon 1908 of $31,842,872, and the net amount in force at the end of the year, possibly a better test of progress, reached $780,356,980, against $719,516,014 at the close of 1908.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT.

The business of life insurance was transacted by forty active companies, of which twenty-three are Canadian, six British and eleven American. The total amount of policies in Canada taken during the year 1909 was $131,739,078, which is greater than the amount taken in 1908, by $31,842,872. The Canadian companies show an increase in 1909 of $10,092,394, whilst in 1908 they had an increase of $7,190,817; the British companies have an increase of $540,473, whilst in 1908 they had a decrease of $111,986; and the American companies have an increase of $21,210,005, whilst in 1908 they had an increase of $2,434,443, the total