

ment by insurance companies makes good the property loss to the community, for property burned is value destroyed, all that the companies do is to distribute the loss. The loss by fire in the United States in a normal year is \$173,000,000 or \$2 per head of the population. In the six European countries from which statistics had been obtained the per capita loss was 33c. annually. The greater part of the enormous loss by the San Francisco fire was due to the large number of frame buildings and the prevailing faulty construction of other buildings.

Insignificant causes, said Mr. Smith, may bring disastrous losses, and not infrequently entire destruction to a city or town. A writer on fire protection, has said that there never was a fire, which at one period could not have been extinguished by a cup of water. The speaker strongly commended the Building Code recently prepared by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, as a complete and orderly publication. He contended that completeness is of the first importance in such a work. Every subject must be covered for if any are overlooked the code will fall short in providing for safe structures. Next in importance is an orderly arrangement of the subject matter. A building code should open with a statement of preliminary requirements, such as to filing plans and statements, permits, definition of terms, quality of materials, and then proceed as nearly as possible in the order in which buildings are erected: excavations, foundations, walls, roofs, chimneys, flues, partitions, floor areas, wood beams, girders and columns, stairways and entrances, skylights, heating apparatus, elevators and enclosures, fire appliances, fire escapes, fire-proof doors and shutters, fire-proof buildings, iron and steel construction, strength of floors, strength of materials, height of buildings, public buildings, theatres and places of assembly, fire limits, frame buildings, administration of the code, appeals, violations and penalties, unsafe buildings and legal procedure. A code to be complete must necessarily be lengthy and should be clear, direct and comprehensible. The risk of life to firemen in buildings of the future will, observed Mr. Smith, be greatly lessened and their work in such buildings more effectual, if adequate building laws are enacted. The adoption of a building code in a city where practically no building regulations exist, or the substitution of a modern and complete building code for an old and inadequate one, is not a radical measure in the sense that it proposes a doctrine or principle of making radical reform in local Government by overturning and changing recognized and accepted policies and methods. It does not demand the services of a reformer in politics who advocates extreme measures, indeed, such a person would do more harm than good. No politics

should ever be allowed to enter into the discussion of a building code. In conclusion Mr Smith suggested that the right man in any city to take up the active work of securing the adoption of a proper building code is the chief of the fire department, who has ready access to the mayor, city attorney, aldermen or councilmen, whose fitness to understand the subject is apparent, and who would be supported in his advocacy of the work by his brother chiefs in other cities. The fighting of fire is his life work, the prevention of fire should be his life study.

Unfortunately, however, we are under the impression that there are a great many chiefs who are incapable of preparing such a code, but their advice and assistance ought to be invaluable.

#### CANADIAN BANK CLEARINGS.

The following table shows the clearings of the Canadian banks, for September and for the first nine months of this year compared, with the corresponding periods in 1905. As will be seen the table shows an increase this year of 11.0 p.c. for the month, and of 17.02 p.c. for the nine months:

##### SEPTEMBER.

Clearings at:	1906.	1905.
Montreal...	\$120,000,000	\$107,763,385
Toronto...	84,964,129	85,769,777
Winnipeg...	42,557,449	28,733,390
Ottawa...	10,774,333	11,117,377
Vancouver...	11,910,701	8,559,198
Quebec...	7,346,747	7,009,400
Halifax...	7,244,996	7,450,643
Hamilton...	6,301,923	5,897,594
St. John...	5,228,987	4,492,133
London...	4,323,106	4,013,448
Victoria...	3,874,997	3,472,553
Calgary...	4,183,609	*.....
Total Canada...	\$304,527,374	\$274,275,817

\*Not included in total.

##### NINE MONTHS.

Clearings at:	1906.	1905.	Inc. p.c.
Montreal...	\$1,104,526,917	\$956,865,535	15.3
Toronto...	854,899,979	753,942,295	13.4
Winnipeg...	327,437,255	231,143,132	41.7
Ottawa...	95,614,018	87,330,709	9.5
Vancouver...	89,230,549	62,264,737	43.3
Quebec...	66,454,740	63,196,530	5.2
Halifax...	67,437,773	64,975,648	3.8
Hamilton...	55,234,877	48,606,593	13.6
St. John...	43,943,147	38,319,766	14.7
London...	42,019,433	36,572,519	14.9
Victoria...	31,380,852	27,348,092	14.7
Calgary...	19,924,809	*.....	....
Total...	\$2,778,179,540	\$2,370,565,376	17.2

\*Not included in total.