

bank returns show a steady increase since the last annual meeting, circulation having expanded \$5,600,000, while deposits have risen \$40,000,000. Besides, there are \$14,000,000 more loans available for the business requirements of the country. He referred to the general prosperity of the Dominion, and looking to the future expressed the hope that the prosperity may continue for some time to come. The business prosperity, which commenced in 1897, is, he declared, as yet undiminished. It is a striking sign that in five years the money value of imports and exports have been enhanced 63 per cent. He referred at length to the results of the recent census, and remarked on the general disappointment which the figures caused. The inability to populate the country at a greater rate was a cause for regret, but he pointed with much satisfaction to the high average of comfort enjoyed by the people of the Dominion. Although the general result of the census was disappointing there were bright features in the country's condition to be remembered.

The general managers of various Montreal banks entertained the members of the association from a distance at a banquet in the evening. We are not yet furnished with particulars of this pleasant gathering, which was prolonged to a late hour last night. But we are told that the Finance Minister of Canada, Hon. W. S. Fielding, was invited to be one of the speakers.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS DAVIDSON.

After a long and painful illness, Mr. Thomas Davidson, managing director and general agent for Canada of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, died at his residence in Montreal on Wednesday morning last, and his funeral takes place to-day. The deceased gentleman was born in Edinburgh 68 years ago. His father was David Davidson, in former years general manager of the Bank of Montreal. Mr. Thomas Davidson became connected with the North British Company, if we do not mistake, at the time of its advent in Canada in 1861. For years the general agency was in the hands of McDougall & Davidson, and at the death of the former a few years ago, Mr. Davidson was made managing director. He was a very well-known member of commercial society in Montreal, and commanded the thorough respect of the insurance community everywhere. Representing a strong company, with wide-spread interests, Mr. Davidson could always be relied on to do what an honorable and high-minded yet correctly business-like man could do to influence underwriting in proper directions. He had many friends, all of them warm ones, whose deep regret at so untimely a death is shared by many admirers of the character of a good and kindly gentleman.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

Still another effort is to be made by certain progressive members of the Montreal city council to pass a special by-law for the improvement of the fire brigade. It will not be submitted to the citizens, however, until after the February elections.

The New York Journal of Commerce has a despatch to the effect that the amalgamation of the Alliance, the Imperial Fire and Imperial Life Insurance Companies of London, Eng., is practically settled, and that the formal announcement of the same will be made within a few days.

Nothing has been done yet about our waterworks, says the Wallaceburg News. A by-law was voted upon and carried authorizing the council to put in waterworks. The citizens of the town are asking for waterworks, and still nothing is being done to give the people what they have been asking for during the last six years.

We rejoice to learn that Sydney city council have at length taken warning from the recent fire. They are going, we understand, to pass by-laws to secure the rebuilding of the area destroyed substantially in brick and under fire preventive conditions. Meanwhile the Underwriters' Board declares that all Sydney fire risks will be cancelled unless the authorities procure a chemical engine.

The Supreme Finance Keeper of the Supreme Tent Knights of the Maccabees, Mr. Chas. D. Thompson, of Port Huron, Mich., has defaulted to the tune of \$57,000. It is stated, however, that the amount is being made up by friends of the culprit and of the order. He had used the Order's funds, "intending to return them," as so many do with trust moneys.

A reminder of the much-puffed Victoria-Montreal Fire Insurance Company came up at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, this week. The company is suing T. W. Horn of the Luxfer Prism Company for payment of subscribed stock to the amount of \$7,000, and Horn is fighting the claim. Mr. Horn obtained from the Master-in-Chambers an order for the examination of Thomas A. Temple and E. L. Temple, residents of Riverside, California, and formerly the Montreal promoters of the plaintiff company, and before that known to St. John people.

We observe that all participating policies effected prior to 31st December, 1901, in the British Empire Mutual Life, will share in the forthcoming distribution of bonus. The present is the bonus year, and as the company showed on the business of 1900 a surplus of income over outgo equal to \$269,103, and other years of the quinquennial period have also been earning good profits, policy-holders, some 24,000 in number, will get a very cheering bonus. There is, we believe \$542,000 held for distribution among the members of this old and strong mutual company, whose funds in hand now amount to \$14,790,000, or close on three millions sterling.

TORONTO BOARD OF TRADE.

On Monday last, a special meeting of the Toronto Board of Trade was held, which had been called to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late first vice-president, Mr. W. E. H. Massey. The president, Mr. A. E. Ames, was in the chair. Nominations were asked for the vacant position, and the name of Mr. J. F. Ellis was the only one put in. He was therefore declared unanimously elected. As Mr. Ellis had resigned the second vice-presidency an election was necessary for this, and Mr. J. D. Allan, a valued member of the council of the board, was elected by acclamation. To take Mr. Allan's place on the council Mr. T. G. Brough, manager of the Dominion Bank and chairman of the bankers' section of the board, was elected, also by acclamation.

A report was presented by the president on matters that have been brought to the attention of the council since the last general meeting of the board.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CANADIAN TRADE.

The following were among the enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the Canadian Government Office in London during the week ending 1st November, 1901: A London firm who are in a position to sell large quantities of Canadian hay will be glad to hear from parties open to ship for the English market. Enquiry is made for the addresses of Canadian asbestos works where asbestos yarn and cloth is spun. A Liverpool house is desirous of obtaining a good agency for Canadian produce. The makers of lifting machinery, chain pulley-blocks, hoists, cranes, girder work, etc., are making enquiry respecting the opening for a trade for these goods in Canada. A firm of trunk makers wish to correspond with Canadian exporters of wooden slats in various lengths, from 28 to 42 inches. A dealer in county Longford, Ireland, asks to be placed in communication with exporters in Canada of flour, furniture, bedding, boots, shoes and hardware.

The following enquiries were received at the Canadian section of the Imperial Institute, London: A Lancashire company asks to be placed in touch with Canadian producers of pig iron, who are in a position to attend to export orders. A London firm possessing a good connection among the wholesale trade are prepared to take up the sale of Canadian pharmaceutical lines, suitable for their market. An enquiry has been made for the names of carriage dealers in the United