

acts are *quo ad* such companies; being *ultra vires* of a provincial Legislature.

The general reference submitted by the government is in the form of three questions. One is if the British North America Act gives a province authority to incorporate companies to do business throughout Canada. The second question is the reverse, whether a federal act can control insurance companies in the various provinces. This, of course, arises out of Judge Leet's judgment denying the right of the federal authority to control insurance companies in the province; which is equivalent to denying its right to control insurance companies anywhere in Canada, except in the unorganized territories, where there are no insurance companies, and nothing to insure but the lumber and the beaver dams.

The issue is in safe hands, and the principal importance of the decision is the question whether it is necessary for the insurance business of the country to be somewhat demoralized pending an amendment to the British North America Act; and, further, whether the legality of the deposits at Ottawa by foreign insurance companies is to be called in question; and the security guaranteed to Canadian policyholders under the Dominion Insurance Act is to be put in jeopardy. As to the question of public interest there is no room for doubt. As to the question of law, who ever heard of a law about which somebody could not raise a doubt? Even the law of gravitation has been called into question.

#### The Wizard of Finance.

Messrs. Walsh & Lafortune are to be envied the privilege they will enjoy of gratifying the curiosity which is universal with regard to the secret of making 30 p.c. per month by speculation in markets, whether they go up or down, while the average public speculator must consider himself lucky if he gets off with a loss of anywhere from ten to twenty per cent. per annum. When the aforesaid gentlemen have learned the secret there will, no doubt, be two vacancies in the Attorney General's department.

The revenue of the Montreal Harbour Commission for September shows a considerable increase over the corresponding period last year. Local traffic produced \$12,914 against \$6,817 in 1909, and the collections on imports were \$37,000 against \$28,000. The increase of revenue for the season up to September 30th, was \$45,949. The number and tonnage of sea-going vessels using the port for the last four years to date is as follows:

Years.	Steamships.	Tonnage.
1907 . . . . .	571	1,479,358
1908 . . . . .	579	1,514,829
1909 . . . . .	513	1,441,514
1910 . . . . .	571	1,688,294

#### Insurance Absorption.

The Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Company, Limited, acting through its Canadian manager, Mr. J. Gardner Thompson, has secured control of the Canadian Railway Accident Insurance Company, of Ottawa. The Accident Company will be operated as heretofore, under the management of Mr. John Emo. This company commenced business in 1895. Its authorized capital is \$500,000 of which \$250,000 is subscribed and \$62,500 paid up. Its total cash income for 1909 was \$340,995, and its total assets exceed \$298,000. Mr. Denis Murphy is President of the company, whose head office remains at Ottawa.

The Rev. Montagu Beauchamp, who has been engaged in missionary work in China, is returning to England via Canada, and on Wednesday night gave an address at St. Martin's Schoolhouse. Mr. Beauchamp predicts in the near future a tremendous political upheaval in China, that will shake the four corners of the earth. He says that the Chinese are watching the Japanese jealously and now wish to adopt western ideas. The modernization of China will undoubtedly be a matter of vast importance to the whole world, but as time goes on—and it will take time for China to develop its full military power—we fancy the yellow peril will lose much of its terror for the West. A nation of 400,000,000 suddenly let loose, and running amuck with all the appliances of modern war is not a thing to contemplate with indifference. But the very existence of such a peril must tend to drive the white races into closer union for self-defence.

#### Canada and Foreign Capital.

We have frequently pointed out that the public borrowings made on behalf of Canada in markets abroad are an indication merely and not an infallible index of the extent to which British and other capital is being invested in the Dominion. Much capital is being quietly absorbed here, the investment of which does not appear upon the surface. Canada is now growing by leaps and bounds. There is everywhere great building activity, the Dominion's mineral resources are being rapidly opened up, the area under tillage is being largely increased, and in every industry there is great growth and activity. The only thing that will retard the Dominion's growth is lack of capital, and there is every indication that our needs in this respect will be supplied. Capitalists from the United States appear to be taking a greater interest in manufacturing concerns at the present time in Canada than ever before. Without doubt, capital will continue to pour into the Dominion from abroad, particularly from Great Britain and the United States.