

The measure of responsibility of directors to stockholders is large. There is a possibility of the Ontario Bank directors being stripped of their property for the benefit of the ordinary stockholders. In any case a striking lesson is held up for other bank directors to read. The present machinery for the protection of stockholders is fairly satisfactory. It is quite likely that the Bankers' Association will devise some improvements in the direction of guaranteeing truthful statements. The Association has always shown itself quite ready to anticipate the reasonable demands of the people.

THE CONFLAGRATION HAZARD.

The intelligent experienced underwriter will tell you that he is not worried, or troubled about his ability to make money for his company, except for only one danger—Conflagrations.

In a paper read before the Fire Underwriters' Association of the Northwest in New York, Mr. M. C. Crosby said that experience has proven that, under conditions at present existing in our cities, when a fire becomes a conflagration, from the point where it starts and in the direction which it takes, it will burn (as long as there is anything to destroy) to the water front, the sand dunes, or an open field. The best fire department in the world, with an unlimited supply of water, will not put out a conflagration; the most that can be done is to confine

it to the direction which it takes; considering a city as one risk, a hazard of defect in one section is a danger to every other. An unprotected opening to a bad exposure, an open elevator well or air shaft, a poorly constructed building, a hazardous occupancy, a "conflagration breeder," are hazards, not simply to the building or block, but to the entire city, and the entire city should be charged therefore. The property-owner on Broadway or 30th street should understand that he may be vitally interested in the condition of a risk on the Bowery or Canal street.

He urges the necessity for water ready at all times. Every large fire or conflagration could have been prevented by a pail of water if applied at the right time.

He advocates the use of automatic sprinklers in every mercantile and manufacturing risk, the first and most important consideration being to have water ready at all times to extinguish a fire when it first starts.

Communications between floors, that is vertical openings, made standard. If the automatic sprinklers for any reason do not fully extinguish a fire, we have provided means for preventing the rapid spread of same and given the fire department a chance to work under favourable conditions.

All exposed openings in buildings, particularly including "fire-proof" buildings, protected by

CAPITAL AND CIRCULATION OF CANADIAN BANKS—1902 to 1906.

COMPILED FROM THE MONTHLY RETURNS.

	PAID-UP CAPITAL.					CIRCULATION.				
	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
January	67,621,011	72,855,485	78,625,589	79,931,657	85,802,587	48,586,531	55,040,987	56,973,274	57,759,897	60,984,874
February	68,041,136	72,931,549	78,701,542	81,131,491	85,958,202	49,450,996	55,746,498	57,736,245	58,775,904	62,433,150
March	68,406,624	74,776,500	78,723,552	81,254,695	86,954,048	52,442,984	58,283,484	59,760,121	58,693,519	65,939,834
April	68,474,523	75,443,635	78,737,844	81,313,513	88,867,936	50,691,588	55,877,648	58,649,872	59,920,229	66,519,536
May	69,358,448	75,979,338	78,801,319	81,464,981	89,817,964	50,754,716	56,949,120	57,857,177	58,116,272	64,215,192
June	69,584,308	75,905,206	79,193,028	82,600,400	91,018,334	53,953,043	58,865,846	60,098,482	61,585,833	69,364,324
July	69,733,761	76,971,021	79,267,773	82,428,020	91,720,584	52,070,065	57,563,666	59,979,833	61,275,448	68,180,620
August	70,196,245	77,481,095	79,458,425	82,671,754	92,976,224	55,035,701	60,414,740	60,227,074	62,495,545	70,106,393
September	70,989,408	77,997,874	79,642,783	83,063,509	93,656,268	60,965,802	63,741,271	63,795,962	69,829,147	77,912,595
October	71,281,535	78,255,462	79,747,011	83,503,248	.....	65,928,974	70,480,613	72,226,306	76,880,440	.....
November	71,928,508	78,396,132	79,851,310	83,690,417	.....	64,497,641	67,425,588	69,427,032	72,543,685	.....
December	72,015,664	78,555,368	79,966,796	84,797,295	.....	60,574,144	62,539,408	64,507,394	69,979,979	.....