

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.—The manager in charge of the DeForest wireless telegraphy apparatus in this city placed the instrument in this office on the 2nd inst., in order to give a practical demonstration of the process. A number of prominent citizens were present, amongst whom were, the Hon. A. Desjardins, W. M. Ramsay, Stevenson Brown, J. O. Gravel, B. Hall Brown, several Press representatives, and others. The apparatus consists, as far as we could judge, of two small boxes, the larger being about 15 x 10 x 5, the smaller about one-third these dimensions. From the larger box two wires were run and suspended from a hat stand, with a third placed in contact with a water pipe. Messages were written by gentlemen present and sent under cover to the office of "La Press," some 2000 feet distant. The operator there dispatched these messages to the operator in this office by whom they were written out and shown to the transmitter and the company eliciting exclamations of amazement as the apparatus had no mechanical connections of any kind outside this building, or outside the building they came from. The messages, consequently, must have been transmitted by air waves, or vibrations, which passed through the walls, or window of both the room from which they were sent and the one in which they were received. Wireless telegraphy seems as uncanny as anything in Tam o'Shanter. It is, of course, not supernatural but it extends the horizon of the natural, as heretofore known.

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BOARD OF TRADE.—The officers of the Board of Trade elected for 1905-6 are as follows:

President—Mr. W. I. Gear.

First vice-president—Mr. F. H. Matthewson.

Second vice-president—Mr. R. M. Ballantyne.

Treasurer—Mr. James Thom.

Council—Mr. Andrew A. Allan, representing shipping; Mr. Peter Lyall, contractor; Mr. A. Hebert, groceries; Mr. George Caverhill, hardware; Mr. E. C. Pratt, banking; Mr. Leslie H. Gault, dry goods; Mr. Alex. Ramsay, paints; Mr. C. B. Esdaile, grain; Mr. G. F. C. Smith, insurance; Mr. H. A. Hodgson, dairy produce; Donald Munro, live stock; Mr. J. I. McGill, manufacturing.

Board of arbitration—Messrs. G. E. Drummond; E. B. Greenshields, J. Cuthern, R. Archer, A. I. Hedgeson, C. F. Smith, Alex. McFee, John McKerrow, James Davidson, R. W. Macdougall, Rob. Bickerdike, M.P., and Chas. McLean.

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MANUFACTURERS' LIFE DINNER.—The President and Directors of the Manufacturers' Life Insurance Company, Toronto, gave a Dinner last night at the National Club, which was a highly enjoyable event, at which several able and interesting speeches were made. We regret having been unable to accept the courteous invitation sent to this festive gathering.

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LANGUAGE OF THE NORTHWEST.—A bank officer in the Northwest gives the following specimen of the language current in that region. The bank asked the attention of a farmer customer to his overdue note, to which he replied: "Just wait until I'm thrashed then you'll get the rocks." The man did not mean as it seems to read, that he anticipated being beaten in some pugilistic contest he was

anticipating, nor that he would ship to the bank a consignment of auriferous quartz, or other ore, but simply that when his wheat was thrashed and sold he would cover the overdue note by a cash remittance.

Our correspondent reports that prosperity generally prevails throughout the district northwest of Winnipeg, where sanguine anticipations are entertained regarding the benefits to be derived from the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.

PERSONALS.

MR. JOHN MILNE, managing director of the Northern Life Assurance Company, London, Ont., was in Montreal a few days ago. He states that the Northern made good progress last year.

MR. JOHN MACKINTOSH, the well-known and highly respected Chartered Accountant, of this city, passed away on 1st inst. He was the senior member of the firm of Mackintosh & Hyde, and the oldest member of the profession in this city.

MR. F. W. PACE, superintendent of the Liverpool & London & Globe, for the N. W. T., was in the city this week for a few days, visiting the head office for Canada. He reports good prospects for extending the business still further in his section of the field. Mr. Pace considers that Edmonton will become a good second to Winnipeg, as a business centre.

Notes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

MONTREAL CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending February 2, 1905—Clearings, \$21,657,301; corresponding week, 1904, \$17,687,272; 1903, \$19,113,186.

JANUARY LOSSES.—Reports from Western States indicate that the losses in January, 1904, will probably make that month the worst on record.

THE UNION BANK OF HALIFAX has declared a dividend of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the current half-year. The annual meeting of the bank will take place on March 8.

THE VAULT OF THE ÆTNA LIFE, at HARTFORD, after standing a siege of eighteen days, was opened on 23rd January last. This looks as though a safe may be too strong. The door is stated to have weighed eleven tons.

THE TEA-INSURANCE SCHEME IN DANGER.—An effort is being made to have the company which carries on a tea-insurance scheme, wound up. The payments were first cut in half, then again and again reduced, until at last it was decided to pay nothing!

BUFFALO'S WATER SUPPLY.—The insurance companies operating in Buffalo, for the last five years, have paid \$1.17 for every dollar received in premiums on policies covering properties in the congested area, nearest to Lake Erie, owing to deficient supply of water.