

THE NATIONAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY sends us a well executed calendar well adapted for office use.

THE NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY sends us a striking calendar showing the Gordon Highlanders on parade at Edinburgh Castle.

THE WESTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY's calendar contains a good sketch of the Lambton Golf Links in flat colours.

THE UNITED STATES FIDELITY & GUARANTY COMPANY, of Baltimore, favours us with its calendar which is of artistic design and creditable execution.

THE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, of Waterloo, Ont., has got out a fine calendar of striking and classic design.

#### THE TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANY v. MATHEWSON.

We understand that the suit taken by Mrs. F. H. Mathewson against the Travelers Insurance Company in connection with an accident policy held by the late Mr. F. H. Mathewson for \$13,000, has been withdrawn, the parties having come to an amicable settlement. Mr. Mathewson died, following injuries received in a runaway accident. The case was tried before Mr. Justice Archibald and a jury. The defendant company claimed that death was due to natural causes, viz., heart disease, and thus the amount of insurance against death by accident was not payable. The jury disagreed, nine favoring the plaintiff and three the defendant.

#### FIRE AT WETASKAWIN, ALTA.

A fire occurred on the 6th instant, at Weta-kawin, Alta., completely destroying the following business places: Messrs. P. Burns & Co., Compton & Montgomery, Stephenson & C. C. Bailey. Loss about \$65,000.

#### FIRE AT ST. JOHN, N.B.

A fire occurred on the 5th inst., in the provincial Hospital for Nervous Diseases, at Lancaster, on the outskirts of St. John, N.B. The property is insured by the New Brunswick Government for \$50,000 under a blanket policy, which includes a number of companies. Insurance loss about 50 p.c.

#### FIRE AT ST. TIMOTHEE, P.Q.

By the fire which occurred on the 31st ult., in the Roman Catholic Church at St. Timothée, P.Q., the Northern Assurance Company, Limited, carried \$22,000 and L'Assurance des Fabriques \$9,000. Loss about 80 p.c.

#### FIRE AT PORT ESSINGTON, B.C.

Port Essington, B.C., was partially destroyed by fire on the night of the 3rd instant, causing an insurance loss of about \$50,000.

THE WESTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY OF TORONTO, has made an important extension to the field at present under the supervision of Robert Bickerdike, branch manager at Montreal, and hereafter all the agencies of that company in the Province of Quebec will report to him instead of direct to the head office in Toronto.

## Financial and General.

A CHARTER is being applied for at Ottawa by Canadian capitalists for the incorporation of the Mexican Northern Power Co., Ltd., to operate in the northern part of the republic. The authorized capital stock is \$10,000,000, and of this amount \$7,500,000 has been issued. There is also a bond issue amounting to \$5,000,000, although the authorized amount will reach \$7,500,000.

TOTAL BOND AND DEBENTURE issues in Canada during 1908 are estimated at \$210,000,000, of which British investors took some \$175,000,000. British purchases of new C. P. R. common stock and the taking up of certain minor security flotations brought up the year's total of capital invested by the Motherland in Canada to over \$200,000,000, including some refundings.

THE ELECTORS OF TORONTO have sanctioned a by-law reducing the number of saloons from 150 to 110. The reduction is a substantial one, and Toronto's example might be followed with advantage by Montreal. There are too many saloons in Montreal, especially in neighbourhoods where they can do the most harm.

THE NEW YORK STOCK MARKET received a "jolt" this week when it was announced that the enforcement of the 80 cent gas law in New York City had been passed upon as legal by the United States Supreme Court. Following the fall in Consolidated Gas, other stocks that had been raised to an unduly high speculative level broke also. There has been a rally since, however.

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING on the 12th instant, the shareholders of the Montreal Trust & Deposit Company will be asked to approve of a plan to increase the capital to \$1,000,000. The company has declared a dividend of 1¼ p.c. for the quarter. It is payable January 15.

THE BRITISH OLD AGE PENSION ACT went into force a week ago to-day and half a million persons in the United Kingdom have drawn their first pensions. A large percentage of them are unable to write their names.

A DESPATCH FROM PARIS says that the new Russian loan is to be issued on January 22 or 23, at 80.90. The amount will be 1,200,000,000 francs and the rate of interest 4½ p.c.

THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE WESTERN BANK at a meeting on Wednesday of this week ratified the agreement to amalgamate with the Standard Bank. The bank will have over ninety agencies.

EIGHTEEN NEW BRANCHES were opened by Canadian banks during December. There are now 1078 branches in all—50 of them being outside the Dominion.

THE DOMINION COAL COMPANY brought 1,348,500 tons of coal up the St. Lawrence last year against 1,088,209 in 1907. "Scotia" also showed an increase.

THE CITY OF MONTREAL's new \$2,000,000 4 per cent. registered stock issue is reported by cable as having been well received in London.

THE MERCHANTS BANK OF CANADA has opened branches at Ste. Agathe des Monts, Que., and Okotoks, Alta.