BERLIN'S EXHIBITION.

It was an interesting exhibition which was held this week in Berlin, Ont. That enterprising town, not content with the very good slogan, "Made in Canada," thought it would astonish the Dominion by an even greater concentration of energy, and so its exposition of goods "Made in Berlin" is the result. Not only were the people of the town itself educated to an understanding of the marked progress being made by its own varied manufacturing industries by this event, but the outside public was attracted as well to attend in large numbers. When Hon. Mr. Whitney, the Premier of Ontario, opened the fair on Monday last, attended by two of his Ministers, Hon. Mr. Foy and Hon. Dr. Pyne, there were no less than seventy different representations of home-made manufactures in evidence, and Berlin may well be proud of its enterprise and energy. It would make too long a list to go into details as to all the articles exhibited, but the following is a summary: Sole leather, slippers, boots and shoes, knitted stockings, hair felt, shirts, collars, cuffs, furniture of all kinds, clocks, music cabinets, bank, hotel and office furnishings, church furnishings, store fixtures, silent salesmen, ladies' shirtwaists, granulated sugar, rubbers and rubber boots and shoes, buttons of horn, pearl and rubber, leather, boots, shoes, slippers, leggings, hot-air and hot-water furnaces, tanning machinery, pipe-cutting machinery, threading machinery, woodworking machinery, castings, gasoline engines, water boilers and motors, engines, pumps, suspenders, trunks, valises, packing boxes, leather embossed goods, paper boxes, biscuits and confectionery, robes, gauntlets, clothing, automobiles, bicycles, mattresses, caperines, caps, mitts, shoe blacking and polish, building supplies, pianos, ladders, washing machines, flour, brick, concrete tiles, lager, beer, refrigerators, cigars, overalls, brooms, gas generators, aluminum goods, etc.

* * *

HOME LIFE ASSOCIATION.

We learned, too late for announcement in our issue of last week, of the transaction by which the Home Life Association of Canada takes over the insurance contracts of the People's Life. These amount to something like $2,500,000 (at the end of December, 1903, they were $2,312,557). This addition will swell the aggregate risks of the Home Life to between $6,000,000 and $7,000,000. The transaction removes from competition one of the weaker Canadian companies, and puts its policyholders into the hands of a better-known and better-conducted concern. It will also result in a reduction of expense. The board of the Home Life will be composed, we understand, of gentlemen who have been on the boards of both companies. Of the fifteen whose names have appeared in the daily press as probable directors, seven were on the former board of the Home, namely, Messrs. J. S. King and J. C. Curry, K.C., of Toronto; George E. Amyot, of Quebec; G. W. Boddy, of Portage la Prairie; J. F. Tufts, Wolfville, N.S.; J. F. Hough, Winnipeg; J. H. Spencer, Medicine Hat. When we learn who compose the new board of the Home Life we shall give them to our readers.

* * *

BANKING AND FINANCIAL ITEMS.

The Royal Bank of Canada has opened a north end branch in St. John, N.B.

The Bank of Hamilton has added Bradwardine and Kenton, Man., to its list of branches.

The Union Bank of Canada has recently opened branches at Fenwick and Fonthill, Ont.

The Union Bank of Canada opened a branch at Fort William, Ont., on the 2nd inst., under the management of Mr. C. R. Dunsford. The same bank has just opened a branch at Plantagenet, Ont.

We observe it announced in the "Canada Gazette" that application is to be made for a charter for the United Empire Bank of Canada, with head office in Toronto, and a capital of $5,000,000. The applicants are a firm of Toronto solicitors, and we are told that the manager is to be a well-known and capable banker.

On the closing day of the convention of the American Bankers' Association, Friday, 13th October, the following officers were elected: President, John L. Hamilton, Hoopeston, Ill.; first vice-president, G. S. Wilson, vice-president of the National City Bank of New York. L. A. Pierson, of the National Exchange Bank of New York was added to the Executive Council. Mr. Hamilton, the new president, is described as a middle-aged man who has shown striking ability as a banker, but who has refused many tempting offers to larger fields.

The American Bankers' Association has what is known as a protective branch, whose watchfulness is intended to save them from the depredations of thieves, burglars and forgers. It is a resolve of the association that every forger or robber shall be pursued until he is caught. Every member of the 7,670 members of this powerful body will if necessary assist in catching and convicting such criminals. That the protective branch does really protect will appear when we say that only seventeen of the associated banks lost $10,147 in all in the last twelve months in this way; while $87,074 was lost by seventy-five United States banks, non-members, through forgery and burglary or other robbery.

There is a proposal to amalgamate two mortgage loan companies of London, Ont., the Huron and Erie and the Canadian Loan and Savings Companies. All that is necessary to complete amalgamation is the sanction of the shareholders of the latter company. If the amalgamation should take place, the company will probably bear the name of the Huron and Erie. The subscribed capital of the two companies now amounts to $3,750,000, of which $2,150,000 is paid up, and their reserve funds total $1,315,000. The capital of the Canadian is $750,000, all paid up, with a reserve of $315,000 and deposits and debentures of $1,330,876. The Huron and Erie has a subscribed capital of $3,000,000, with $1,400,000 paid up and a reserve of $1,000,000. The deposits of the latter company were $1,659,163 at the end of 1904, and its debentures amounted to $4,088,058 at the same date.

Our Montreal advices tell anew of a proposed "Farmers Bank of Canada," offices of the provisional directors of which were in the Leeming-Miles Building, corner of Notre Dame Street and St. Lambert Hill, in that city, bearing signs printed in both French and English. A charter for a bank of this name was obtained at Ottawa in 1903, and it was supposed from the names of the applicants that the head offices were to be in Toronto, but the promoters decided to make a change, thinking that a better opening for business presented itself in Montreal. And so efforts were made to interest Montreal capitalists and business men in the enterprise, supposing money to be plentiful there. But Mr. Durand, whoever he may be, has been trying since midsummer to get the necessary capital subscribed, and, with that, a satisfactory board of directors. But he does not appear to have succeeded, and enquiries at the "provisional offices" for Mr. Durand or representatives of the new banking proposition fail to elicit any information other than that Mr. Durand has left the city and given up the enterprise. It is not a light task to found a new bank, though some promoters think that the gift o' the gab or a liberal use of printers' ink may do the trick.

* * *

—Word came by cable on Saturday that the strike of the electrical workers in Berlin, Germany, is ended. At a conference on that day the delegates of the workingmen voted to accept the associated companies' original offer of 5 per cent. increase in wages. The result is a complete victory for the employers, who, with the dignified deliberation that Germans can show when they combine for protection against unreasonable demands, made their arrangements to fight the strikers until they should come to terms.