

Canadian management to visit other cities, Canadian and American, with a view to seeing the elevations and interior arrangements of the most modern office buildings before deciding finally upon the fitting up of this one. But it is to be a nine story building, of massive and fire-proof construction, with abundance of room for the company's business, and a lot of space for rent. It may be predicted that it will be an ornament to one of the principal business streets of Montreal.

Says The Chicago Inter-Ocean: "The public is no less interested than fire underwriters in finding a preventive of the enormous waste of wealth through fire. No other country on earth suffers fire losses comparable with those of the United States. . . . The building laws and fire ordinances are generally violated here [Chicago] and elsewhere. [In Philadelphia, for instance]. Faults in construction, negligence on the part of property-owners and tenants, carelessness on the part of employees and fire-breeding practices, generally, receive little notice from those who are paid to give these very things the strictest attention. The majority of fires are preventible. It is easier to prevent them than to extinguish them. If every town and city government in the United States would recognize this fact and act accordingly, enough wealth could be saved to the country in a few years to pay the national debt!"

FINANCIAL MATTERS.

In the course of an article headed, "Prodigal Wall Street Distributions," the Rand-McNally Bankers' Monthly tells of the distribution of money gifts in Wall Street at Christmas time last year. Millions of dollars were thus given during holiday week. "Several important houses presented their employees with amounts of money equal to each one's annual salary. This precise magnificence was displayed by J. P. Morgan & Co., and the affiliated house of Drexel & Co., of Philadelphia. One brokerage house distributed among its servants \$10,000, or the equivalent of the aggregate pay roll for one quarter. The office manager got \$1,000, the head book-keeper \$600, the chief operator \$400, and so on down the scale, according to capacity and period of service, to the mere board boys, the least of all, who got \$25 each. The Knickerbocker Trust Company distributed the equivalent of six months' salary; the Central Trust Company did likewise, the president of the latter institution himself getting \$50,000 from the directors. Charles W. Morse, the consolidator of banks, displayed his generosity by arranging to place amounts of stock among his employees on easy payments and at considerably less than market value. The meanest messenger boy in the street was not forgotten."

DRY GOODS.

Lindsay Bros'. dry goods stock, valued at \$34,000, in St. Thomas, has been sold to Northway & Anderson, of the same city, at 65c. on the dollar.

The Sanford Manufacturing Co., Hamilton, is making preparations to carry out its contract for clothing the fourth contingent of 2,000 men for service in South Africa. The order comprises 4,000 tartan tunics and riding breeches.

It is confidently expected by some experts that cotton will soon go very considerably higher than it is at present. Reasons are given in the remarkable prosperity of the United States, the pending close of the South African war, and the backwardness of the new crop.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The Kensington creamery, at Woodstock, has been destroyed by fire.

It is stated that Swift & Co., the Chicago meat packing firm, will establish, in Buffalo, a bonded cold-storage warehouse. They will buy up Canadian eggs and keep them in bond till sales can be effected.

It is expected that the price of bananas will be higher than usual this year, owing to the fact that as there will be several new steamers running to Jamaica, the competition among buyers will be keener, and thus, contrary to the usual happening, the selling price will be enhanced.

The first auction sale of Mediterranean fruit to be held this season in Montreal will take place on the 25th inst., when the cargo of the Thomson line steamship "Fremona," consisting of oranges and lemons, will be sold at auction. The fruit ship "Jacona," of the same line, is expected at about the same date.

—The British Columbia Trust Company held a special general meeting in Vancouver last week, at which it was proposed to increase the capital to \$100,000, and to buy a building site. The following officers were elected: Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, president; Mr. Francis Carter-Cotton, vice-president; Mr. Henry Lye, formerly of Toronto, managing-director, and Mr. Alfred E. Lye, secretary; Mr. John F. Helliwell, auditor.

—A national object-lesson of a bold and novel kind is suggested by Mr. Alex. Dick, assistant manager to the Dominion Coal Co. He proposes that Canada should follow the example of Cape Colony, and build at Sydney, N.S., a first-class cruiser of Canadian steel by Canadian workmen, and present it to the British navy. This would not only be an earnest of the way this country regards the Motherland, but would also serve to draw attention to our great and varied resources.

It is proposed to establish in Mexico City a permanent exhibition of native and foreign products, and the company having the plan in hand has already received a concession from the Mexican Government. The buildings are to cost not less than \$300,000 in Mexican currency, and are to be finished within three years. Mexico is a country which is making almost phenomenal progress, and it is one in which Canadian manufactures and other goods should be known much better than they are at present. We trust this opportunity will not be allowed to slip by.

The following is a record of patents recently granted to Canadian inventors in Canada and the United States: Canadian Patents—B. Menard, trap valves; F. Chadwick, water closet seat hinges; G. W. Walters, seat valves; M. C. Nixon, friction clutches; N. E. Nash, temperature regulating appliances; J. Clarke, preservation and purification; C. Clarke, car ventilators; J. T. Holmes, hay carriers; F. Meanley, reverse motion for steam engines. United States Patents—J. O. Dauphin, rod swab; J. England, seat post for bicycles; G. C. Ferguson, cork extractor; E. W. Hogan, rail fastener; S. G. MacMillan, clothes horse; Hugh Mann, railway track laying machine; W. A. Simster, cheese box; J. Tremblay, valve; T. Ulke, refining composite metals; T. A. Wooley, machine for shocking grain.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures for Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, April 17, 1902, compared with those of the previous week.

CITIES	April 17, 1902.	April 10, 1902.
Montreal.....	\$26,340,472	\$27,172,095
Toronto	19,787,584	19,714,170
Winnipeg	3,199,335	2,690,267
Halifax ...	1,802,676	1,915,438
Hamilton	854,079	872,040
St. John	782,909	747,201
Vancouver	820,261	857,649
Victoria	581,266	530,650
Quebec	1,045,478	1,290,618
Ottawa	1,884,114	1,999,959
	\$57,048,174	\$57,790,082

Aggregate balances, this week \$7,481,002; last week \$8,018,732