velopment Company of Ontario and transmitted by although offers may have been made, the Government the Toronto-Niagara Power Company; which is the Development Company in another guise.

The scheme of making a firm contract for only half the quantity of power for which demand has already been made is sound enough. The price would information thus obtained, the Government will be ensure everincreasing demand for power. But so able to give proper consideration to any offers that are made, Until the timber is removed from the limits no calculations which predicate an industrial revolution mining can be done. It will be the middle of the that it is reasonable to ask for greater elucidation of them. The Toronto Railway system is run with about 13,000 horse-power. The report of the Municipal Commission, which ante-dated the Hydro-Electric Commission, estimated the demand of Toronto at about 50,000 horse-power; including the supply for thing depends upon the valuation of the minerals as the Street Railway, and the Electric Lighting Company, which cannot be switched out of existence in a jiffy. Are the Street Railway and the Electric Lighting Company, the allies of the Electrical Development Co. and the Toronto-Niagara Power Company, going to break their contracts? Do not those contracts provide for the prices to be adjusted to what are found to be market rates? How long will it take to build a to be market rates? How long will it take to build a second transmission line, that can compete with the private companies, if and when they cut rates to defeat municipal operation? Will a war be provoked by the municipalizers while they are commencing to organize a market of scattered users of power, in competition with the interests which have the biggest customers in the city for their initial purchasers? Will a municipality have to pay for the excessive optimism of its neighbor?

critics sav the prices were based upon the cost of steam power-that the limit of the consumer's purse and not the cost of production fixed the rates. figures authorized by the Commission give a certain inspection question by the attack on existing condireasonableness to this contention. Much more is tions, by Mr. McLeod, general manager of the Bank know about electrical transmission than had been of Nova Scotia, which appears on another page. It discovered when the Electrical Development Company was launched. It seems that whatever happens, five per cent. of Canadian chartered banks have come there will have to be considerable revision of prices by the parties at present in possession. Once they recognize that necessity, there should be no difficulty in reaching a modus operandi that will give the companies excellent return for their investments, and secure permanently to the public cheap light, heat and

The general development of commerce is vastly more important financially than one or two per cent. to one or two companies. Though the Toronto case is the most exigeant, it is not, of course, on all fours with those of municipalities further west, to which transmission lines from Niagara Falls have not been constructed. Commitments to private enterprise directors. Government inspection would give them elsewhere are not so enormous either proportionately props which they should not be supplied with. Directors or otherwise; and it may be easier to carry through a municipal power policy under the ægis of the Government Commission. The submission of a uniform bylaw is a step in the right direction. Let ample credit be given to public men for every wise, cautious move they make. It is good that they are not so excited as some of their newspaper friends. The event will prove that there is as much reasonableness in Canadian power companies as in other institutions, and that it is better to accommodate than to confiscate.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

tion from a reliable source makes it certain that facts which any bank fails to deal with.

has not considered any of them. The Department of Mines is making careful explorations and examinations of the property with a view to determining as far as possible the value of the minerals. With the information thus obtained, the Government will be winter at least before the timber is off. Whatever action the Government takes it will proceed very slowly and cautiously. The Government has not yet formed any conclusion as to what policy it will adopt in regard to the disposition of the property. Everydisclosed by the examinations now under way.

In Newfoundland the appointment of a special commissioner for Labrador is proposed. Suggestions are made that Labrador should be represented in the Newfoundland Legislature. There are educational and physical difficulties which make this impossible at present. Labrador's resident population of about 4,000 people is cut off from the rest of the world for more than half the year. Newfoundlanders handle about a million dollars' worth of Labrador products annually. These figures refer to fish and fish products alone. If the timber and mineral possibilities were exploited the sum would be much larger. The possibility of Canadians coming in by the back door and securing the trade which Newfoundland has not cultivated, is making the people of Newfoundland Questions like these suggest themselves integrated that something should be done quickly. Sir minably. They point to two alternatives—either the existing companies will supply the city on some revisited Labrador and studied its conditions carefully. Vised plan, or they will have to be expropriated. The companies' inconvenience is in their contracts which, obviously allow remarkably handsome profits. Their obviously allow remarkably handsome profits. Their obviously allow remarkably handsome profits. from June to October.

A somewhat new complexion is given to the bank tions, by Mr. McLeod, general manager of the Bank is not pleasant to be reminded that since 1883, twentyto ignominious ends. But facts must be faced. If Government or other independent inspection would secure the object aimed at, it should, of course, be adopted. But, Mr. McLeod's argument, strong, and ably presented though it is, seems to us to make out a case for direction by directors, rather than for any examination by outside interests. Mr. McLeod says that examination by a competent banker into the accounts of any of the banks which failed, would have disclosed their unsoundness years before collapse Which means that incompetence is the original and persistent offence against good business. What is needed is the most direct responsibility of Government inspection would give them cannot count the cash in a hundred branches, or pass upon every trivial loan. But they must provide double checks against incapacity and trickery. The Ontario Bank case is the result of monumental incapacity; which alert shareholders should have observed. Though Government inspection is not the solution of the problem forced upon the Bankers' Associamust be devised. It will probably be found in an enlargement of the declaration made to the Government; and an increase in the signatories. The mere presenta-tion of figures is not enough. The Finance Department should be supplied with definite assertions as to A story has been current that the Ontario Gov- a bank's position; be clothed with authority to make ernment has received an offer of \$15,000,000 for the specific inquiries; and be saddled with direct, unmineral rights on the Gillies timber limits. Information from a reliable source makes it certain that

## CLEARING HO

Houses for the weeks ending November 15th, 1906, and Nove centage, increase or decrease of

|              | 2   | Vov. 23,'05 |
|--------------|-----|-------------|
| Montreal     | \$2 | 3,308,950   |
| Toronto      |     | 2,867,372   |
| AA HIIIII LA |     | 1,381,806   |
| Halifax      |     | 2 145,946   |
|              |     | 1,628,320   |
| St. John     |     | 954,745     |
| Vancouver .  |     | 2,181,082   |
| Victoria     |     | 590,078     |
| Quebec       |     | 2,090,753   |
| Citter in in |     | 2,704,415   |
| London       |     | 1,063,253   |
| Calgary      |     |             |
| Edmonton     | *   |             |
|              |     |             |

Total . . \$75,416,720

British Columbia is far houses this week, as Vancouve of 566 per cent. and Victoria comes third with its increase polis is next with + 30.3 per comes third with its increase polis is next with + 30.3 per larger increase than usual of Halifax come the only returns both cases are small. The Mont to hand at time of going

## MONEY AND M

Assewerage system will Hamilton, Ont., at a cost of A sea wall will be constr

Spencer Avenue, Toronto, at The \$1,800 Erskine, Alta, awarded to Messrs. Nay, And The Guelph Town Counciment of \$5,000 to the Gilsen

\$4,737.32, or 94.746.

their factory site. Greenock Township, Ont.

Fifty thousand dollars we Stratford, Ont., have been also gets one per cent. premin per cent better than the next Battleford, Sask., debeni

\$2,000 6 per cent. sidewalk de were awarded to Geo. A. St 100.15 and accrued interest. 1906, and mature part yearly

## Debenture

Ingersoll, Ont.-Until No twenty years. W. R. Smith, t Moosomin, Sask.—Until I

cent. town-hall debentures, to cent. water-works debentures cent. granolithic-walk debenture secretary-treasurer.

The town of Berlin 41/2 pe 30 annual instalments, have be Company, Toronto.

The village of Blyth, Ont., 000 debentures at 41/2 per co Tenders will be received till Clerk.

The county of Renfrew, 8 repayable, in 20 annual install received up to November 14th offers were rejected as the pr

The Toronto power by-lated yesterday, and will come lt proposes to contract with sion for 15,000 horse-power at power per year.

The village of Beamsville p.m. December 1st, for \$12.000 payable in 20 years. The ann first to be made on November ture debt of the village is \$13,

An article on the bank st