

The minimum and maximum months varied in earlier years, but the above shows that they are now fixed periods, as, after January, with occasional exceptions, the totals in the monthly bank statements go on enlarging until, in the case of circulation, October is reached, and in deposits and discounts the end of the year sees the maximum of the year.

**NEW YORK CITY FIRE PREMIUMS.**

The New York-city fire premiums for the entire year 1905, 1904 and 1903, are given in the "Commercial Bulletin" as follows for companies operating in Canada:

	Entire Year.		
	1905.	1904.	1903.
Liverpool & Lon. & Globe .....	\$864,164	\$968,162	\$720,629
Aetna of Hartford.....	280,295	274,470	281,273
Phoenix of Brooklyn.....	274,579	270,833	218,785
Sun Insurance Office.....	263,512	236,459	191,411
Western of Toronto.....	189,176	176,299	168,568
Western of London.....	160,894	166,370	165,103
Caledonian .....	153,187	150,865	138,936
British America.....	144,813	111,725	102,186
Agricultural.....	132,524	112,989	124,868
Connecticut.....	80,670	79,010	78,997

**BANK OF HAMILTON.**

The prosperity prevailing in Ontario to which Mr. B. E. Walker recently referred is evidenced by the highly favourable statement of the Bank of Hamilton for last year.

During the existence of this bank the year 1905 was the best and most successful it ever enjoyed. This was the case despite the misfortune of losing a comparatively large sum by the fraud of one of its trusted branch managers. This was no reflection upon the management, as it is impossible to conduct such an institution as a bank without trusting some officials. The amount so lost left the net profits nearly 15 1/2 p.c. of the paid-up capital, so that, had this loss not been made public, the shareholders would have had good reason to be highly gratified at the results of the year's business, the percentage of net earnings having considerably exceeded the average of any group of previous years.

The net profits amounted to \$357,273; to this there was added \$205,421 from premiums on new stock, \$40,176 brought from 1904, making a total of \$602,870 for distribution. From this was taken \$231,719 for two 5 per cent. dividends, \$135,319 was added to reserve fund from profits and \$205,421, the premiums on new stock, and \$5,000 was allowed to the ex-president by vote of the shareholders. When those appropriations had been made there was \$25,410 left to be carried forward to year 1906.

Authority was given the directors to call up further capital to amount of \$500,000 at their discretion to provide for the future growth of the business.

It was also decided to pay quarterly dividends which is becoming the general practice.

The leading items of the Bank of Hamilton in statements for 1905 and 1904 are as follows:

	1905.	1904.	Inc. in 1905.
Capital paid up.....	\$2,440,740	\$2,235,280	\$205,460
Reserve Fund.....	2,440,740	2,100,000	340,740
Circulation.....	2,279,755	2,017,511	262,244
Deposits.....	21,464,121	19,100,365	2,363,756
Discounts.....	17,151,131	16,388,616	762,415
Call and short date loans..	2,161,093	1,568,142	592,851

New branches were opened last year at Toronto Junction, Carberry, Kenton and Killarney, Man., Battleford, Sask., and Fernie, B.C., also on College St., and Ossington Ave., Toronto.

It was a very proper recognition of the long and valuable services of Mr. John Turnbull, the general manager, to elect him vice-president.

**THE HARTFORD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.**

"The Oldest Insurance Company in Hartford" as the Hartford proudly boasts itself is near to its centenary, the statement for 1905 being its 96th annual exhibit. The exhibit is the most favourable ever issued by the company. We are not favoured with the amount received for premiums nor with the fire loss, but as the company received nearly 12 millions of dollars for premiums in 1904 it may be fairly assumed that the receipts last year were a million more in the previous year, which sum beats the record of American fire companies.

The amount of the leading items in the 96th Annual Exhibit compared with those of 1904 and the several increases are as follows:

	1905.	1904.	Increase
	\$	\$	\$
Total Assets.....	18,061,926	15,632,483	2,429,443
Reinsurance Reserve.....	10,997,401	9,010,891	1,986,510
Net Surplus.....	5,150,696	4,026,249	1,124,447
Surplus to Policy-holders...	6,400,696	5,276,249	1,124,447

The results of last year's business are thus shown to have been highly satisfactory, the conditions were more favourable it is true, but the success of the Hartford throughout its long career has been owing to skilful underwriting, excellent business management, and sound judgment in making investments. The honourable and prompt settlement of claims has always been a feature in the Hartford and contributed much to its success.

The President, Mr. George L. Chase, has been a strength to the Hartford for some 40 years and still retains his interest in its affairs as we trust he will be spared to do for many years. He has able coadjutors in Mr. C. E. Chase and R. M. Bissell, vice-presidents; Mr. P. C. Royce, secretary; Mr. Turnbull, assistant secretary, and in Mr. Fromings, in this city, the Hartford has an efficient representative.