

by Mr. White, the district agent, and nearly all of them came. The building was admired by everyone. Among those present at the opening were: Mr. R. Macaulay, president; Messrs. S. H. Ewing, James Tasker, A. Macpherson and J. R. Dougall, all of Montreal, and T. B. Macaulay, secretary.

At a meeting of the Quebec Board of Trade held on Tuesday last, and which is elsewhere noted, it was contended that Quebec city was unduly discriminated against by the action of Lloyd's in putting up marine insurance rates to Canadian ports. Accidents in the channel above Quebec, the board contends, should not have any bearing on rates between Quebec and the ocean. But Lloyd's can hardly be expected to decide between rival ports; their grievance is against the whole St. Lawrence route, which has unquestionably been an unprofitable one of late to marine companies. Indeed, rates on hulls and cargoes are going up, we are told, on the Great Lakes as well as on the Lower St. Lawrence. A letter was read from Hon. Mr. Dobell asking that a statement should be made, showing the actual losses on the St. Lawrence, and along the coast of Nova Scotia, etc., during the last ten years. Also, if possible, learn from St. John and other places in Nova Scotia, the losses on deck-loads. It appears to be the intention of Mr. Dobell to make representations to Lloyd's people at a later date about the St. Lawrence route, and try to get them to reconsider. To have done so immediately after the "Castilian" disaster would have been bad judgment.

—Another loan company has been organized in Toronto, as if there were not loan companies enough already—too many one would think, when half a dozen of those that already exist are trying to amalgamate. This one is to be named the Standard, and the name of Mr. Whitney, leader of the Ontario Opposition, has been secured as president. Not a bad idea that, to get hold of a prominent man, with a good name, as figurehead. Of the other persons named in connection with the company, a reverend gentleman among them, we do not know much, save of D. O'Connor, of Ottawa, who is a very respectable lawyer. The "Old Line" permanent companies, as they are sometimes called, which make straight loans on land mortgage, have no royal road to money-making now-a-days, the rates being too low. But if this new aspirant be one of the terminating sort—its nominal capital we observe is a whole round million—with the perpetual-motion method of profit which such concerns boast, wonderful profits may be shown if the members only agree to the by-laws. By the way, is this the same Standard Loan Company whose name appears in the Toronto Directory, published on January 13th last?

—This continent will not want for exhibitions of magnitude in the next two or three years. That at Philadelphia comes first in point of time. An illustration of the main building in which it is to be held shows that much is expected. Regarding the Pan-American Exhibition, at Buffalo, N.Y., in 1901, a bill appropriating \$500,000 for a United States building and exhibit has passed both branches of Congress at Washington, and was signed by the President. The bill passed at Albany setting aside \$300,000 as the State's share in the Exposition has been signed by Governor Roosevelt. These two amounts, added to the local subscriptions, bring the total already raised for this exposition to \$2,300,000. Again, the city of St. Louis proposes to hold, in 1903, a universal exposition in commemoration of the centennial of the Louisiana Purchase. Five million dollars of stock is to be issued for popular subscription. All subscriptions are conditioned on an aggregate of at least \$5,000,000.

—Respecting the communication made across the English Channel the other day by means of wireless telegraphy, The Electrical Review considers this feat of connecting, temporarily, the telegraphic systems of two great countries by means of the ether-wave signals as "more interesting than useful." Communication has been established between Dover and Boulogne-sur-Mer, says The Review, "and, incidentally, with any other place in the vicinity of either where anyone may please to erect a pole and a coherer. It has worked, and doubtless will continue to work well, until someone operates an induction coil in the neighborhood of either station, or until a thunder-

storm develops somewhere within 100 or 200 miles. It was a most interesting experiment, and demonstrated that Hertz waves of sufficient power can be detected at considerable distances. It has not as yet, however, caused any marked fall in the shares of cable companies."

—A verdict in favor of the newspaper has been rendered by a jury in the case where Col. Hughes, chief of police in Montreal, sued The Herald of that city in damages for libel. It was not alleged, and it is not believed, that Col. Hughes was personally corrupt, but it has been proved that he was unethical, and careless in many matters, resulting in waste. The result of the case should teach men in public positions that they are responsible for the proper spending of public money, and it should make them more aware that those who are under their authority may possibly need watching. The Herald has done good service to the community of Montreal by its criticism in the case in question.

—Simplicity of life, culture, and progress—how to reach these things is expounded by The Washington Star in a parable, thus: "As I understand it" said the heathen, "you propose to civilize me." "Exactly so." "You mean to get me out of habits of idleness and teach me to work." "That is the idea." "And then lead me to simplify my methods and invent things to make my work lighter." "Yes." "And next I will become ambitious to get rich, so that I won't have to work at all." "Naturally." "Well, what's the use of taking such a round-about way of getting just where I started. I don't have to work now."

—As to the defunct Homestead Building Society, of Hamilton, further proceedings have been had at Osgoode Hall, looking towards a distribution of assets of this unfortunate concern, whose collapse came nearly two years ago. Mr. Justice Rose gave judgment, ordering the moneys in court to be paid to the parties found entitled to them by the master-in-ordinary's report. When the receiver's compensation and legal costs have been computed, the distribution of the remaining moneys will be proceeded with. It is expected all the shareholders will receive their proportions by May 1 at the latest.

—The Bank of British North America has been opened at Atlin, which is a point on the road to the Yukon, north of the White and Chilcoat passes.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, April 6th, 1899, compared with those of the previous week:

	April 6th, 1899.	March 30th, 1899.
Montreal	\$12,221,194	\$13,653,749
Toronto	7,850,942	8,538,812
Winnipeg	1,578,454	1,445,879
Halifax	1,116,854	1,042,716
Hamilton	812,158	617,888
St. John	580,284	482,509
Victoria	333,454	624,582
Vancouver	623,219	556,866
	\$25,116,559	\$26,963,271

Aggregate balances this week, \$2,994,308; last week, \$4,114,669. This week includes the Good Friday holiday.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, April 13th, 1899, compared with those of the previous week

	April 13th, 1899.	April 6th, 1899.
Montreal	\$14,942,050	\$12,221,194
Toronto	9,821,563	7,850,942
Winnipeg	1,654,717	1,578,454
Halifax	1,206,519	1,116,854
Hamilton	737,365	812,158
St. John	595,760	580,284
Victoria	953,596	333,454
Vancouver	947,008	623,219
	\$30,858,578	\$25,116,559

Aggregate balances, this week, \$4,365,809; last week, \$2,994,308.