

in and out of Vancouver, but Port Mann will be the point whence all incoming freight will be distributed in Vancouver, Vancouver Island or any foreign destination, and all eastbound freight trains will be made up at Port Mann. Mr. Mann stated that in addition to freight and passenger terminals in Vancouver, the Canadian Northern will also have water-frontage there.

Some Building Figures.

November figures of building permits in Vancouver create a new monthly record, the figures reaching nearly \$2,000,000. The last high-water mark was in March last, and the November figures show an increase of well over 200 per cent. over November of last year. The total for the eleven months of the current year is nearly \$12,250,000 which shows an increase of nearly 100 per cent. over the corresponding period of last year. It is thought possible that this year's total will be advanced to \$13,000,000.

Regina's 1910 active building season has been the biggest year in its history. The actual value of building operations in the eleven months period including and ending November 30, was \$3,080,663, which includes the sum of \$750,000 expended this year on the Parliament buildings for which no building permit had to be taken out. The value represented by the 563 permits issued by the city engineer was \$2,330,663, as against \$741,119 for the same period last year, an increase of 315 p. c.

Prince Albert and the Saskatchewan River.

The authorities of Prince Albert, Sask., intend to put forward at Ottawa a proposition which may possibly mean that the work of making navigable the Saskatchewan river may be started earlier than had been anticipated. Prince Albert has decided to construct a power plant at the La Colle Falls, which are reported to be one of the most difficult places to render navigable. The idea is that work on the power plant and on making the river navigable be carried on simultaneously, if an arrangement can be made as to sharing of expenditure. The power scheme will cost the city, it is anticipated about \$450,000.

British Columbia's Forest Fire Waste.

Interesting facts regarding British Columbia's forest fire waste are given by Mr. M. C. Gladwin, chief provincial fire warden, in his annual report to the Hon. W. R. Ross, chief commissioner of lands. The number of fires reported this season was 1,184, and the total estimate of damage is \$629,910. Of this, \$193,976 was to standing timber, \$63,974 to cut timber, and \$371,965 to improvements. The area burned over was 218,388 acres. Of this burned area there are 91,220 acres that is only fit for forest land. Part of this had been burned over years ago and was coming up in a fine growth of young timber. The remaining 127,168 acres is fit for agricultural purposes. Most of this had been logged and was covered with brush and refuse from logging operations. The number of men employed to combat fires that did damage was 4,452. The cost to the Government in wages was \$35,000, and to private parties \$37,398, making a total of \$72,398. There were also 502 fires in dangerous places which were extinguished without doing any damage. For this part of the service 4,211 men were employed at a cost of \$92,000. In addition 615 fires were put out by the fire war-

dens without help. Mr. Gladwin recommends an increase in the staff and the provision of launches for patrolling the coast. He suggests also the levying of a small tax for fire protection on timber held under license. On this point, he writes: "A large bulk of the timber is held by outside capital for speculative purposes and owners engaged in lumbering operations are often called on to fight a fire that has not originated on their property while the people, whose timber has been protected in this way, have not contributed one dollar for the protection they received. A direct tax on each acre would equalize the cost of safeguarding the timber and would give the Government a fund available for fighting fires and for maintaining a proper control." After discussing the chief causes of fires, Mr. Gladwin remarks:—"There is only one cause of fire that cannot be controlled, and that is lightning. All other causes can be minimized so that no great loss will be incurred. Carefulness on the part of logging operators, persons clearing land, campers, fishermen, prospectors and railway companies would so reduce the danger that no repetition of the great fires of the past need be feared."

Financial and General.

CABLE ADVICES state that a Province of Saskatchewan 4 p. c. loan of £1,000,000 is being underwritten in London.

MONTREAL CLEARINGS.—We understand that the 1910 clearings at the Montreal Clearing House will aggregate about \$2,100,000,000, a new record by a handsome margin.

MESSRS. WOOD, GUNDY & CO., have just been awarded an issue of \$10,975 Township of Clinton 5 p. c. debentures, repayable in 20 instalments. This Township is situated in the Niagara District.

OFFICIAL FIGURES now issued show that the total immigration into Canada in the five months, April to August inclusive, totalled 180,330, an increase of 74,748 or 71 per cent. upon the corresponding period of 1909.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER has called a convention to be held at Quebec on January 18, 19 and 20, under the auspices of the Canadian Forestry Association, to discuss the question of forest conservation "with a view to the adoption of improved methods and the better and more enthusiastic enforcement of existing regulations."

MONTREAL TRAMWAYS AND POWER COMPANY.—A company with this title has been registered in London, Eng., with a capital of £4,110,000. It is generally believed, though no specific information upon the point is forthcoming, to be connected with the financial developments to be undertaken by those now in control of the Montreal Street Railway.

CROWN TRUST COMPANY.—The first annual meeting of the Crown Trust Company was held on Wednesday, when the secretary-treasurer presented a report showing a surplus of \$14,664.83. Net earnings for the year were equal to 8 per cent. on the capital of \$100,000. Mr. Robert Reford was re-elected president, Mr. W. I. Gear, vice-president;