

THE UNITED EMPIRE BANK.

The United Empire Bank of Canada, now being organized, has secured the charter of the proposed Pacific Bank, and application made to Parliament to change the name, also to increase the capital from \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000.

The general manager will be Mr. George P. Reid, who has an excellent record as general manager of the Standard Bank, Toronto, for ten years, in which position he succeeded the late Mr. Brodie. Mr. Reid has always been regarded as a conservative banker whose first consideration has been to conduct business on sound principles. Under his management of the Standard the deposits rose between May 1897, and May 1905, from \$5,746,008 to \$12,480,745, and discounts from \$5,292,135 to \$11,285,452. Since May, 1897, the aggregate paid-up capital of all the banks in Canada has increased from \$61,943,156 to \$83,416,049, the percentage of increase in paid-up capital being 34 per cent. In the same period the total loans rose from \$226,006,927 to \$575,026,389, the ratio of increase in loans being 154 per cent. The bulk of the funds for this expansion were provided by deposits. Such an extraordinary increase in bank business naturally led to a demand for more bank capital and for new institutions to meet the growing business of the country.

The United Empire Bank proposes to have an office in London, and if occasion demands, in other large business centres in Great Britain, between which places an enormous business is done with Canada. To facilitate this arrangement three or more prominent financiers of London, England, will be on the directorate. Lord Ernest Hamilton, director of the Employers' Liability Assurance Company, London, and Mr. Evan H. Llewellyn, M.P., director of the Great Western Railway Company, London, have accepted positions on the Board of Directors.

The United Empire is being organized under promising auspices, both as regards its personal associations and the prospects of business.

ROCHESTER GERMAN INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Rochester German Insurance Company has now completed arrangements for transacting fire business in Canada. The Company has a very excellent record for prompt and liberal settlements. In our notice last week we gave the name of the late, instead of the present president, Mr. Eugene Satterlee, who enjoys respect and confidence wherever he is known.

THE PROVIDENT SAVINGS LIFE is reported in a circular sent out by President Scott as more than holding its own as the new insurance written in the last half-year exceeds that of the same months in 1904, while the termination ratio is less.

THE LATE MR. CHARLES ALEXANDER.

By a most deplorable accident the life of Mr. Charles Alexander of this city, was suddenly ended about midnight on the 4th instant. Mr. Alexander was subject to fainting attacks, owing to his great age, exceeding 90 years. To relieve one of these he opened the window of his bedroom, the sashes of which reach to the floor; the window being opened he fell outwards on to the pavement, and died in less than two hours from the shock.

Mr. Alexander came from Scotland at an early age to settle in this city. Having been shipwrecked he arrived here in dire straits, but, by hard work and thrift he managed to establish a small business that developed. From his earliest years as a citizen of Montreal he devoted himself to public duties, more especially those of a philanthropic nature. He served as Alderman and member of the Legislature, Quebec. In all the local leading benevolent institutions, that were open to him, he took an interest all his life. Charles Alexander never lost his enthusiasm for philanthropy. His life was a round of good works in the interests of afflicted humanity.

Montreal may challenge comparison with any city in the world for its charitable provisions for the needs of the sick, the blind, the infirm of body, or mind, it may also claim to have had for many years a citizen whose life was devoted to the amelioration of human distress and suffering. Yet, while so devoted to public duties and charitable offices, Mr. Alexander was "diligent in business," whatever his hand found to do he did with all his might. Having served his Master and his fellow men with self-sacrificing devotion throughout an unusually long life he has passed to his eternal reward. Montreal will ever honour the memory of Charles Alexander.

THE OCTOBER FIRE LOSS.

The fire losses of the United States and Canada for the month of October, as compiled from the records of the New York "Commercial Bulletin," aggregate \$12,267,000. The following comparative table will show the losses by months for the first ten months of 1903, 1904 and 1905:

	1905.	1904.	1903.
January.....	\$16,378,100	\$21,970,200	\$13,166,350
February.....	25,591,000	90,051,000	16,000,000
March.....	14,751,400	11,212,150	9,907,650
April.....	11,901,350	23,623,000	13,549,000
May.....	12,736,250	15,221,400	16,366,800
June.....	11,789,800	10,646,700	14,648,350
July.....	13,173,250	11,923,200	12,838,600
August.....	11,435,600	9,715,200	8,428,350
September.....	13,715,250	14,387,650	9,939,450
October.....	12,266,000	12,866,200	10,409,800
Total nine mos.....	\$143,739,000	\$221,116,700	\$125,381,350
November.....	11,515,000	13,589,550
December.....	19,422,350	17,224,700
Total for year.....	\$252,364,050	\$156,195,6