

THE GOVERNMENT OF HOLLAND is likely to undertake systematic research into national fire losses. According to the New York Journal of Commerce, the Central Commission for Statistics—the body which is consulted by the Government of the Netherlands on every subject of statistical research—has determined to propose to the Government an inquiry into the number of fires and the loss of national wealth therefrom; provided that the fire insurance companies of the country are willing to take a share in the labour which this would involve. Letters inviting the companies to co-operate have been sent to three or four organizations of managers.

THE MONTREAL CITY COMPTROLLER estimates a revenue of \$6,142,781 for 1910—a first charge on which will be \$1,648,642 for interest on debt. Some of the amounts voted to departments by the Finance Committee are: Roads, \$628,097; Police, \$546,011; Fire, \$410,138; Water, \$252,708; and Health, \$104,506. It was decided that members of the Board of Control should be paid \$10,000 a year.

THE ONTARIO ATTORNEY GENERAL has issued a statement of the provincial government's reasons why the Dominion should not grant the petitions addressed to Ottawa, asking for disallowance of the Ontario Act validating certain contracts between the Hydro-Electric Commission and municipalities of the province.

HON. L. A. TASCHEREAU, Quebec's Minister of Public Works, has lately announced some details of the Provincial Government's plan for conservation of forests and regulation of water powers. Two experts are now in Europe studying methods of forest preservation.

AN INCREASE OF 15,632,285 TONS in the freight passing through Canadian canals is shown in the statistics for the season just closed as furnished the Department of Railways and Canals. Of the total the Sault canal alone shows an augmentation of 14,533,611 tons.

CANADA CEMENT Co. shipments from the company's various plants for the eleven months ended November 30, are reported at 3,246,014 barrels. Based on shipments due and orders received for December, the total shipments for the year will closely approximate 3,400,000 barrels.

THE DEMAND of the 75,000 railway men in the United States for an increase of wages early in the new year is being discussed by the men in Canada. For their own sake and the public's it is to be hoped that wiser counsels will prevail against Canadians' "following suit."

THE MONTREAL STREET RAILWAY COMPANY has outlined a plan for important extensions of its lines throughout the city. Steady growth is needed in a city whose population is now close to the half-million mark.

THERE WILL BE MUCH SYMPATHY in Canada with the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen in the loss of their son, the Hon. Archibald Gordon, as the result of an automobile accident.

OVER \$100,000,000 of contracts are carried in the Province of Quebec, by mutual benefit and fraternal societies, according to a recent report issued by the provincial inspector.

DAMAGE OF \$2,000,000 or over was done by Monday's disastrous fire in the large drapery establishment of Arding & Hobbs, London, Eng. Electricity and celluloid are reckoned the joint-sinners in the matter. The fire is said to have been due to the breaking of an electric bulb which started a blaze among celluloid articles beneath. It occurred about 4:30 p.m., when the store, covering an acre of ground and having five floors and a hundred departments, was crowded with customers. In little more than an hour the building was in ruins. At least three lives were lost.

Where else than in England would a Cabinet Minister be found assisting the firemen in fighting the flames? President John Burns, of the Local Government Board, thus distinguished himself.

WELLS FARGO EXPRESS COMPANY capital stock is being increased from \$8,000,000 to \$24,000,000. With the increase there will be paid to stockholders a dividend of \$300 a share out of the accumulated surplus. Not a bad Christmas box. The \$16,000,000 of new stock will be offered for subscription to shareholders *pro rata* at par in a proportion of two shares of new stock for one of old.

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