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R. WILSON-SMITH.

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A fire which occurred at the res-An English idence of Mr. Halsey, near Hemel House Fire, Hempstead, England, gives an and its Losson. idea of the wealth stored up in the country houses in the old country. This residence was of a class of which there are thousands in Great Britain, yet, by a fire which occurred on 10 inst., damage was done to extent of \$500,000, which was covered by insurance. Strange to say there were suspicions of fire a whole day before it was discovered although a carpenter was specially engaged to investigate the cause of smoke prevailing in different parts of the house, who was unable to discover "anything un-usual," as though it were usual to have smoke in the rooms of such a dwelling. "Something unusual" discovered itself some hours afterwards by flames bursting out which destroyed the house and contents. Had the old saying, "Where there is smoke there is fire," been heeded this disaster might have been averted.

Contraband Cargoes. British Marine insurance companies, and more especially Lloyds, are said by "The Review" to be not looking cheerful just now, in view of so many captures of British steamers carrying coal for Rus-

sia, these captures inflicting heavy loss on the underwriters, so much so in fact, that a movement is on foot to endeavour to deter ships from sailing at all now, or, if they do, they must as a condition of being covered by insurance take a different route to that ordinarily followed. Losses running into millions of dollars are very serious. If, however, shippers will try to run blockades for the chance of securing excessive profits and if underwriters choose to accept such risks at excessive rates, they neither of them are entitled to sympathy if their losses are also excessive. The British coal vessels said to be in company with the Baltic fleet are practically a portion of the Russian fleet and as such must take their chance of being paid compliments by Admiral Togo that will send them where such cargoes are not in demand cold at it is in Davy's locker.

Proposed Fire
Prevention Act.
by the Imperial Parliament on the lines of the Public Health Act, the

provisions of which should be compulsory. The "Observer" remarks: "Such a measure would save as experts have computed, two-thirds of the amount annually lost by fires, and would prevent the loss of employment suffered by workers in factories, theatres, etc., so destroyed; and last, but not least, it would save a great number of lives now ignorantly sacrificed. The excellent work of the British Fire Prevention Committee during the past seven or eight years has resulted in the accumulation of ample data on which to base such an act. That committee consists of the most eminent scientists, engineers, architects and business men of the United Kingdom."

Mr. E. Pratt, who makes the suggestion regarding a Fire Prevention Act in his letters to the Press, expresses indignation at the careless work done

in installing electric wires by which the safety of the lives of scholars at Eaton were endangered. He writes: "Everyone ought to know the danger of ordinary wood when used for electrical work. As Mr. Charles T. Yerkes wrote in "The Times" of August 12, 1903, anent the Underground disaster at Paris: 'I know of no substance that will withstand the heat of an electric arc. In my opinion non-inflammable wood properly treated is the best material that can be used. Holes can be burnt in it as they can in iron, but it will not blaze or smoke. Non-inflammable wood is no new thing. The whole of the carriages for the Yerkes. conversion of the Underground Railway to electricity are made of it. It is years since the United Statesadopted it for their battleships, and were the casings at Eaton and at the National Telephone depot made of it, such fires as those on Friday, which might easily have caused great loss of life, could not posssibly have occurred. Obviously the public safety demands that direct responsibility should rest upon those who, by such electrical installations as are every day being made, endanger the lives of employees in large factories, theatre and other audiences, and those in hotels, schools and dwelling-houses.

THE EXPORTS OF CANADA, 1868 TO 1904.

We present in this issue a table of statistics by which are exhibited the exports of this Dominion, for a series of years from 1868 to 1904. The classification is that adopted by the Department of Trade of Commerce, which divides the exports into six groups, viz., Produce of the Mine, Produce of the Fisheries, Produce of the Forest, Animals and their Produce, Agricultural Products, and Manufactures.

These are sufficiently explicit to clearly indicate the general nature of the articles exported from Canada. In several groups we have given some details, which are of special significance as showing the main channels through which flow the larger streams towards Great Britain.

Considerable fluctuations have occurred since 1898, last year, for instance, having fallen below 1903, by 15 millions, but since the former year there has been an increase of \$17,055,873. The 1904 figure is almost exactly double that of 1892, and three times that of 1888 and 1889.

A remarkable feature in the yearly returns shows

that, from 1868 to 1881 there was a steady increase

in our exports to Great Britain, from \$18,794,840 to

\$42,637,219, then, up 1889, there was a steady decline

from \$42,637,219 down to \$33,504,281, which brought

this branch of our trade lower than it was in 1874, so,

for fifteen years, Canada was loosing ground in British

markets year by year. In 1890, a reverse movement

set in, so that, in 1898, in 8 years, the exports to Great

Britain more than doubled, the rise being from \$41,-

499,149 to \$93,065,019.

The expansion of Canada's exports of food products to the old country since 1868, has been the leading feature in our foreign trade. Since 1868 we have increased our shipments of farm products as follows:

The record of exports to the United States differs very materially from that to Great Britain. Instead of an increase of six times between 1868 and 1904, as in the case of exports to Great Britain there was only an increase of two and one-third times. Between 1888 and 1899 when exports to Great Britain increased from \$33,648,284 to \$85,114,555, an increase of over 153 per cent., the exports to the United States increased by only \$19,373. For a long term of years we had been fighting hard to raise the amount of our exports to the States without any success, the amount in 1899 being actually less than in 1873, and most of the years being less than in 1870.

Farm products. Exports to Great Britain United States other cou tries.	8,080,676 7,683,652	11,927,690 1,053,175	Increase, or decrease \$ Inc. 78,406,309 Dec. 3,847,014 Inc. 6,630,472
Total exp (arm products. \$10	00,940,994	19,761,222	Inc. 81,189,772
Total exports \$198	.414,439 \$	53,371,067 [nc. 145,043,37

The determination of the United States to put obstructions in the way of Canadian products entering that country was very marked and very successful. Whether this fiscal policy was in the best interests of our neighbours is becoming more and more disputed by them, as is evident by a movement which is now assuming serious proportions, the object of which is to facilitate the entrance of certain classes of Canadian products, of wheat more especially, which is needed by American millers to enable them to manufacture flour equal in quality to that made in Canadian mills. Whether it is wiser for Canada to allow her wheat to pass into the United States in order to be ground into flour for export to markets where it will compete with Canadian flour, or, for Canada to place an export duty on wheat going to the States, which would tend to the removal of a part of America's flour manufacturing to Canada, is a very grave, and by no means an easy

Out of a gross increase in total exports of \$145,-043,372 those of farm products were \$81,189,772. Out of the gross increase of \$81,189,772 in this class of exports since 1868, no less than \$78,406,309 was in the exports from Canada to Great Britain.

> The signs of the times all point to the probability of some fiscal changes being in process of development that will have a great effect on Canada's exports. Besides the American movement there is the agitation in Great Britain re inter Imperial trade, the outcome of which will not be manifest until some very exciting political contests have been "lost and won.". It is a matter of the highest satisfaction that Canada is fast developing those resources from which her exports are derived.

The increases in our exports to Great Britain and the United States, with their respective proportion to the total exports were as follows:

Great Britain Percentage of total	1904. \$ 110,120,892	1868. \$ 18,794,840	Increase. \$ 91,326,052
United States Percentage of total	.55 per cent. 66,856,895	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	37,532,128
exporte	33.6 p. cent.	54.9 p. cent	

The exports from Canada to Great Britain in 1868 were 35 per cent. of the total exports, whereas last year they were 55 per cent. of the total. On the other hand the exports of Canada to the United States in 1868, constituted 54.9 per cent. of the total, while in 1904 they were 33.6 per cent, of the total. The relative positions of Great Britain and the United States in regard to Canadian exports have been exactly r.versed since 1868. We are now sending 20 per cent. more of our total exports to Great Britain than we did in 1868, and sending 20 per cent. less of our total exports to the United States than we did in the earlier year.

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EXPORTS OF CANADA FROM 1868 TO 1904.

Table exhibiting the growth of the exports of Canada from 1868 to 1904, classified to show their nature, whether Products of the Mine, Fisheries, Forest, Farm, or Manufactures, and the respective amounts experted to Great Britain, the United States or other countries.

CLASS OF EXPORTS.	1904	1900	1896	1892	1888	1878	1873	. 1868
PRODUCE OF THE MINES.		*	\$	\$		\$		
Coal—Great Britain	50,523 3,565,910	64,078 4,026,605	66,845 2,904,704	53,101 2,790,693	77,584 1,411,749	1,034,036	1,551 663,530	1,618 525,992
Other Countries	730,227	508,919	277,520	351,673	241,133	176,653	286,805	113,098
Totals Total Minerals—Great Britain	.4,346,660 641,072	4,599,602	3,249,069	3,195,467	1,730,466	1,210,689	951,886	640,708
" United States	32,025,193	193,746 23.698,606	175,512 7,437,814	683,094 4, £06,483	478,260 3 341,308	142,374 2,472,979	1,013,945 4,537,005	421,093
Grand Total of Minerals	33,626,739	24,580,266	8,059,650	5,906,471	4,110,937	2,816,347	5,853,860	733.980 1,276,129
FISHERIES.						1		
Great Britain	3,084,930	4.071,136	4,462,002	3,006,810	1,544,901	1,043,539	483,157	226,915
I nited States	4,224,226	3,688,935	3,301,671	3,452,036	3,123,853	2,367,007	1,336,398	926,792
Other Countries Grand Total of Fisheries	3,449,873 10,759,029	3,409,012 11,169,083	3,314,092 11,077,765	3,216,552 9,675,398	3,124,429 7,793,183	3,443,429 6,853,975	2,959,722 4,779,277	2,203,803 3,357,510
PRODUCE OF THE FOREST.						, , , , ,	3,,2	0,001,010
Total Lumber, etc.—Great Britain	14,962,927	15,058,036	12,186,806	9,453,768	8,932,177	13,271,372	13,720,644	9,354,244
" United States	15,009,838	12,805,139	13,528,047	11,472,306	10,622,338	4,481,053	12,622,959	7,842,526
" Other Countries Grand Totals of Forests	3,119,157 33,091,922	1,800,493	1,460,833	1,355,670	1,748,299	1,759,150	2,955,314	1,545,855
	33,091,922	29,663,668	27,175,686	22,281,744	21,302,814	19.511,575	29,298,917	18, . 42,625
ANIMALS AND THEIR PRODUCE.	E							
Horses, Cattle, Sheep-Gt. Britain	10,798,660	8,572,980	10,272,570	7,987,892	4,374,466	1,039,133		209
" " United States. " Totals	1,318,421 12,462,851	3,073,307 12,201,595	800,715	2,234,104 10,539,412	4,204,023	1,996,941	2,583,557	1,888,859
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	12,102,001	12,201,000	11,426,667	10,035,412	8,879,310	3,216,102	2,709,021	2,010,753
Butter-Great Britain	4,400,774	4,947,000	893,053	877,455	614,214	2,048,838	1,833,223	1,196,586
" United States Totals	6,497	5,044	2,729	6,038	13,468	140,932	751,496	1,088,015
Totals	4,724,155	5,122,156	1,052,089	1,056,058	798,673	2,382,237	2,808,979	2,427,662
Cheese—Great Britain	24,099,004	19,812,670	13,924,672	11,593,690	8,834,997	3,801,643	2,207,779	
" United States Totals	5,386 24,184,566	4,836 19,856,324	10,359	39,558	83,153	186,530	63,727	
Totals	24,104,000	19,000,024	13,956,571	11,652 412	8,928,242	3,997,521	2,280,412	
Provisions, all Kinds-Gt. Britain	45,281,143	39,675,209	20,808,654	14,844,172	10,380,015	7,036,345	6,679,171	2,282,986
" United States " Total Provis'ns	77.767	38,944	142,336	572,342	2,284,300	984,901	1,519,708	1,329,794
Total Provis ils	46,355,864	40,063,218	21,200,808	15,656,797	12,895,938	8,289,772	8,501,777	3,862,682
Total Animals, etcGreat Britain	57,920,010	49,881,630	32,523,071	24,068,081	16,571,072	9,060,279	7,245,415	2,724,017
United States	4,217,653	5,326,750	3,341,275	3,935,924	7,595,743	4,483,106	6,553,900	3,794,673
Grand Tctals of Animals and their Products	63,812,117	56,148,801	36,507,641	29,594,850	24,719,297	14,019,857	14,243,017	6,893,167
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.							, ,, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	0,000,101
Total of all Kinds-Great Britain	27,266,656	21,674,965	9,551,316	15,119,780	4,292,640	10,087,329	7,455,272	4 056 340
" United States	3,863,021	2,041,110	3,232,793	4,573,779	10,306,278	6,977,038	6,446,374	4,056,340 8,136,017
" Other Countries.	6,009,198	3,800,534	1,299,252	2,419,725	837,442	944,387	1,093,694	678,698
Total Agricultural Products	37,138,875	27,516,609	14,083,361	22,113,284	15,436,360	18,008,754	14,995,340	12,871,055
Manufactures - Great Britain	6,231,494	5,625,073	3,799,266	2,617,472	1,762,894	2,224,373	1,428,748	1,107,408
Cuited States	7,416,198	4,857,413	3,531,239	3,006,708	1,632,025	983,027	1,541.698	682,851
Total Manufactures	6,216,457 19,864,049	3,741,861 14,224,287	2,034,879 9,365,384	1,416,808 7,040,988	766,363 4,161,282	920,355	639,457	310,152
	, , , , , , , ,	,,	0,000,004	1,010,000	4,101,202	4,127,755	3,609,903	2,100,411

RECAPITULATION,

	of Mines-Total	Exports		24,850,266	8,059,650	5,906,650	4,110,939	2,816,347	5,853,860	1,276,129
**	Fisheries	"	10,759,029	11,169,083	11,077,765	9,675,398	7,793,183	6,853,975		3,357,510
**	Forests	"	. 33,091,922	29,663,668	27,175,686	22,281,744	21,302,814			18,742,62
**	Animals	**	63,812 117	56,148,807	36,507,641	28,594,850	24,719,297	14.019.857	14.243 017	6,893,16
**	Agriculture	**	37,138,875	27,516,609	14,083,361	22,113,284	15,436,360	18,008 754	14 995 340	
"	Manufactures	"	19,864,049	14,224,287	9,365,384		4,161,282			12,871,05 2,100,41
T	otal exports, to G	t. Britain.		96,562,875 59,666,556	62,718,941 37,995,928		33,648,284	35,861,110	31,402,234	
		er countr		14,412,938	9,200,468		40,407,483 7,326,305	7,747,681		29,324,75 5,251,47
G	rand Total of Ex	ports	198,414,439	170,642,369	109,915,337	99,338,913	81,382,072		80,384,012	53,371.06

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WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

The demonstrations of the actual transmission of messages between distant points which were made last week in the office of The Chronicle, were sufficient to show the extraordinary simplicity of the apparatus and system and the lea ibdity of sending messages without any wires outside the building, from or to which they are sent, or received.

The apparatus was installed in this office in a few minutes. Communication was at once established with another station in a building a number of blocks distant. Although the whole affair was hastily arranged, the messages transmitted from a distant part of the city were received as correctly as the ordinary telegraphic message. The apparatus did not occupy more room on a table than a hand valise, or dressing case.

The word "wire'ess," though practically, is, however, not technically correct, as the receiving instrument has three short wires, two of which extend some six or ten feet, two of which may be suspended from a hat rack, or window curtain, and the third, a "ground" wire, is put in contact with a water pipe. The messages are received then by wires in contact with an instrument by which they are made intelligible to the receiving operator.

Up to a recent date it was thought necessary for the apparatus to have direct contact by its wires with the air outside the operating room. was found not to be so by a lucky incident. While work was in progress to place the ends of the apparatus wires in contact with the outside air, the reserving operator exclaimed, "Hold on there -messages are coming!" although at the time he spoke, the wires were wholly "inside" the building, laid loosely aside ready for being run outside. This revealed the non-necessity of any wires having contact with the exterior air. To-day, whereever the De Forest system is installed, the messages pass into buildings without any apparatus of any kind being outside the walls. Messages, indeed, have been received inside a closed safe or vault.

The transmitting and receiving apparatus have to be tuned to each other. This is an illustration and practical application of a law of acoustics, by virtue of which any wire, or, indeed, any object capable of giving out a sound, on being vibrated, responds to the same note to which it is tuned. Thus, when a pianoforte is being played, there are sympathetic vibrations continuously responding to others, enriching the harmony when the instrument is in perfect tune. If a tuning fork which gives out, say, the note A. is struck, when near to another of the same note, the second one will, as it were, echo its characteristic note, but no other.

So the wireless message speeds on Ms course until its wave motion, or vibration impinges upon an apparatus tuned like the transmitting instrument. To such an instrument it yields up its inaudible secret, which it may have kept sacred for hundreds of miles.

Already, this system enables a line of steamers between New York and the West Indies, to be kept in constant touch with the head office, while en route to and fro. It is anticipated that, in the near future, wireless messages will be sent to and from Montreal, Chicago, and intermediate points. The time occupied is inappreciable, transmission is instantaneous.

Wireless telegrams can be handed in to any postal telegraph office in the United Kingdom. At every such station is displayed a list of vessels that are equipped with wireless apparatus, announcing their sailings and the day and hour when they will be in touch with coast stations. The ships having the service number twenty-five, and include the finest vessels engaged in the transatlantic trade. Ships so equipped will, at present, be reached while they are within 200 miles of wireless land stations, and they will be in touch with these stations for several hours after their departure from port, and before their arrival.

Wireless telegraphy, ere long, will be as familiar as the telephone or telegraphy. But it can never cease to be one of the most marvellous systems for annihilating space in bringing human beings into communication.

There are, however, difficulties innerent in wireless telegraphy, which will have to be removed before it will be able to compete as successfully as its promoters predict, with the established telegraph system, by wires. For effecting communication between stations on land and vessels out on the open sea, there can, of course, be no competition with any system which involves any form of material contact between such stations and vessels in motion. In that sphere, wireless telegraphy has and will have a monopoly. It is, however, pointed out that there must be a limit to the number of stations from which messages may be sent, or by which they may be received. The apparatus at every port, for instance, cannot be synt ised or tuned, to receive messages from every, vess il. Along the coasts of this continent, of the United Kingdom, of Europe, and other continents, there are thousands of vessels continually sailing past thousands of ports. All these vessels and ports cannot possibly be brought into communication by wireless telegraphy, so far as the system is now known and practiced. Already, there have sprung up national and trade jealousies in regard to the systems in use. The Marconi companies have

FIRE INSURANCE BUSINESS IN CANADA FOR THE YEAR 1904.

WITH COMPARATIVE RESULTS FOR THE YEARS 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902 and 1903.

Compiled by THE CHRONICLE.

	l'er cen	. of Los	ses incu	rred to	Premium	Bus	iness of 1903.		Business of 1904.						
panies.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	Net Cash received for Premiums.	Net Losses incurred.	P. et. losses incur'd to Prem's.	Net Cash received for Premiums.	Net Losses incurred.	P. ct. Losses ine' r 'd to Pr'ms	Expenses.	P. et. Exp'ns to Pr'ms	Total.	P. et. Losse & Exp
an.	р. с.	р. с.	р. с.	р. с.	р. с.		8	\$	\$	\$					
merican.			61 08	48.19	47.3	271,787	166,390	61 2					•	•	1
America	57.51	43 6	94.35			424,684	215,992		532,404	504 540					
D	53.89	22.9	72.95			180.485	103,222		264,220	524,540		160,460	30.14		
	*** 00	*****	*****	42 41		135,900	86,783	63 8	156,691	233,041 144,182		52,469	19.86		
dutual			57.15			392 062	218,392		200,001	144,102	92.62	56,741	36.21		1
e	66.11	43.6	81.08			80,009	35,454	65 7 44 3	99,662	114,210	192 95				
	59 57	102.9	42.38			190,351	122,966	64 6	169,169	194,195	114 79	62,979	27 92		
Malal		30.4	113 31	73.15		93,964	35,827	38 1	118,974	142,702		34,351	37.23		
Mt'al.	52.03		236.45 89.70		41.9	****	**********			,	120.	34,331	28.87		
	02.00	03.2	03.10	66.66	41.3	513,256	228,551	44 5	555,913	528,023	94.98	166,774	30.00		
	55.22	53.20	83.25	58.22	42.5	2,282,498	1,213 577	53 2				100,111	30.00		
	71.02	44.8	117.42	199 34	15.1	204 405	110 500								1
	109.44	60,2	102 71	60.43		204,485 292,829	113,522	55 5	243,479	553,719	227.42	63,176	25.94		174-18
n	79.30	49.1	124.17			262,839	144,925	49 5			100	30,110	20.01		
ial U'n.	91.62	73.5	80.6	72 36		458 743	123,265	46 9	306,499	374,247	122,10	84,210	27.47		1 . 8
	71.80	53.8	109.16			489,256	256,689 277,569	55 9	533,162	542,523	101.75	10-11-11-11			
	64.65	59.5	101.81		33.1	100,200	211,003	1	549,445	451,884	82.25	157,171	28.53		1
re	66.79	58.3		149.00				,							
& Lon.															1
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anc	115.20	46 9	88.39	55.30	45.3	275,349	130,421	47 4	309.526	829,618	85.68				1 6 30
	129.71	44.4	113.17	91.36	30.4	131,060	78,260	59 7	145,862	414,042	137.77				1 900
	61.62	64.2	140.01	94.29	37.6	197,750	95,975	48 5	140,002	171,687	117.70				1 700
	109.44		102 71	53,60		272,129	163.679	60 1	100				- 1		1 70
	64.87	51 0	73.22	71.97	30.9	383,105	252,980	66 0	447,447	555 909	104 04				1
&Mer.	77.17	65.5	117.90	72.39	37.1	569,180	338.576	59 4	648,079	555 908 741,146	114.24				
nion	75 18	62.0	98.53	74.31	44.1	421,145	222,778	52 9	497,860	470,952		140 700			
Lon	73,00	52.1	78.54	66.32	34.4	684 265	319,468	46 6	782,840	606,522	94.60 77.67	146,788	29.47		1
& N	79.04 68.60	59.2 51.0	83.18	56.76		973,773	478,079	49 1	1,123,589		121.91	206 205	07.00		
æ M	78.39	70 8	65.00	65.11	66.8	337,110	153,589	45 6	301,560		171.67	306 285 80,001	27.25		1 3
	79.90	593	89 24 122.74	69.89	46.4	251 833	130,863	51 1	300,259		111.22	88,578	26.52		1
& C		13.1	73.49	83.87	32.1	361,905	133,040	36 8	449,717	398,568	88.62	127,269	29.50		1 100
a c		10.1	13.49	63.07	28.5	83,194	54,166	65 1	116,550	115,634	99.21	37,231	28.29 31,94		1
1.	79.12	58.80	97.99	74.15	41.7	7,334,432	3,738,400	51 0					01.04		
	60,45		165.23	75.38	45.5	212,034	112,393	53 1	236,078	264 940	110 00				
	107.64	18.4	87.30			*****			200,010	264,940	112.22	58,428	24.75		1
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GENERAL RECAPITULATION FOR SIXTEEN YEARS OF FIRE INSURANCE BUSINESS.

Years.	Premiums.	Losses.	Per ct.	Years.	Premiums.	Losses.	Per ct.
Business of 1888	5,588,016 5,836,071 6,168,716 6,512,327 6,793,595	3,021,435 2,796,048 3,399,368 3,952,611 4,470,238 5,113,905 4,612,019 4,812,764	55 57 50 09 58 25 63 91 68 64 75 55 68 69 69 31	" 1897 " 1893 " 1899 " 1900 " 1901	7,157,661 7,350,131 7,910,492 8,331,948 9,650,348 10,577,084	\$4,338 506 4,609 997 5 395 898 4,552,161 8,078,931 6,783 617 4 288 562 5,799,279	61 31 alguora, 64 41 74 37 5 alguora, 97 00 70 29 40 54 50 94

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resented the demand made by the American Government, that the stations at Nantucket should be allowed to use other apparatus as well as that of the Marconi system. Rather than submit to this requirement, the Marconi Company has closed their Nantucket stations. The difficulty of placing any State control over messages sent from ships to coast stations, raises a very knotty question. In time of war this might involve grave complications and international difficulties.

The necessities of commerce, of marine insurance, of State interests, will gradually render it imperative for a common, a universal system wireless telegraphy to be established. Competition in this has serious practical difficulties, as competing stations are liable to so interfere with each other as to cause confusion, and so bring the system into discredit. There are now five systems in operation, viz :- the Marconi, the De Forest, the Lodge-Muirhead, the Fessenden, the Slaby-Arco. Out of these it is probable there will be evolved a system for universal adoption by all countries, that will render humanity inestimable service in saving life and property, in reducing the anxieties and perils of those who go down to the sea in ships, and do business in great waters, and by bringing members of families severed by distance, into closer touch, which will add much to the comfort and the pleasures of life.

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

The Equitable Life is usually spokeu of as one of the great "giants" of lile insurance. That its dimensions are gigantic is manifest, but we take exception to the term "giant" being applied to this organization, because when any one of whom that is said has usually attained his maximum size, whereas the Equitable puts on more girth and height every year than would of themselves make a good independent business. Looking indeed at the annual growth of this vast organization we are inclined to wonder what will be the outcome of this continuous expansion in future years. It will lead to the Equitable being one of the greatest financial institutions in the world, overtopping any of the great banks in accumulated resources, and in the magnitude of its interests and their elaborateness, exceeding many of the world's governments.

We are accustomed, quite justly, to regard the Commonwealth of Australia as standing very high in financial resources. But the aggregate revenue of the six consolidated States of that Colony, last year, amounted to only \$57,830,000, which is only 73 per cent. of the income of the Equitable in 1904. We, Canadians are naturally proud of our magnificent, our unrivalled canals, but their entire cost only equals the income of the Equitable for last year.

The income of this company in 1904 was 26 millions

of dollars larger than the yearly revenue of this Dominion derived from taxation.

The total assets owned are large enough to provide \$26 for every family in the United States; are sufficient to pay off the national debt of Canada and leave a surplus of \$164,000. These will be helpful in forming some conception of the financial greatness of the Equitable.

Last year the premium receipts were \$62,643,836 against \$58,637,889 in 1903, and interest, rents, etc., yielded \$16,432,859 as compared with \$15,080,461 in previous year, the total income in 1904, having been \$79,076,695, which is \$5,358,345 in excess of 1903. The amount paid for death claims was \$18,039,539. Were these payments to be traced what an exhibit they would reveal of the blessings of life assurance. Homes would be shown to have been saved from wreck; and widows and orphans from an awful descent from the peace and comfort of financial ease into the turmoil, the struggles, the distress of property!

The policy-holders were paid dividends last year to extent of \$6,111,902, so they shared in the company's prosperity.

The Assurance Fund, or Reserve, is \$327,738,358, this, with other liabilities, makes the total liabilities \$333,158,751. As the total Assets amount to \$413,953,020, there is a surplus of \$80,794,269.

The total outstanding assurance on 31st December, 1904, was \$1,495,542,892. The net amount of policies at end of 1903 was \$1,409,918,742.

The list of directors of this colossal institution reads like a list of the wealthiest, most enterprizing, and ablest citizens of New York. The agents of the Equitable, also as a rule are leaders in their profession, for they have to maintain the high standard of the company they represent.

GOLD PRODUCTION IN 1904.

The production of gold last year is stated by the "Engineering and Mining Journal" of New York, to ranged the details so as to show the total production have been as in the following table? We have arof the British Empire:

er the British Emi	pire :			
Australasia. Transvaal. Canada La	1904. \$6,718,730 77,918,660 17,410,000 4,640,410 11,445,875 17,500,000		-+-++	Increase + or Decrease - \$ 2,488,690 16,659,380 574,975 305,800 900,000
Total Bri'sh Empire.	\$215,633,675	\$201,106,695	+	14,526,980
United States Mexico	84,551,300 10,690,780 22,500,000 17,500,000	73,091,700 10,182,460 24,980,320 16,705,750	++++	11,459,600 508,320 2,480,320 794,250
Outside the Empire. \$ All the world \$	135,242,080 350,875,755	\$124,960,230 \$326,066,925	+	10,281,850 \$24,808,830

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Lew realize that the gold production of the British Empire-constitutes so large a proportion of the entire world's supply of gold. Last year this proportion was close upon 62 per cent., being \$215,633,675 out of a total production throughout the world of \$350,875,755.

The principal increase last year was in the gold production of the Transvaal which rose from \$61,259,280 in 1903, to \$77,918,660 in 1904, an increase of \$16,-650,380. The United States has the second largest production being \$84,551,300, against \$86,718,730, the yield of Australasia. Mexico is regarded as a promising gold field. The lessened out put of the Klondike last year accounts for the decrease shown by Canada from £18,834,900 down to \$17,410,000.

While the United States and Canada continue to produce over 100 million dollars worth of gold yearly it will be no matter of surprise to hear of large shipments of gold to Europe, for the production of gold on this continent is much greater than what is needed for the arts, or currency, or reserve purposes.

AETNA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Ætna Life Insurance Company made gratifying progress last year, its business having been materially enlarged and a considerable addition made to its financial resources. The following exhibits the leading items in the statement for 1904, compared with those of 1903:

FINANCIAL MOVEMENT.

	1904.	1903.		Increases
	\$	*		*
Assets	73,696,178	68,067,862	+	5,628,316
Premium receipts	12,868,922	11,733,254	+	1,135,668
Interest receipts, etc	3,062,634	2,825,620	+	237,014
Total receipts	15,931,556	14,558,874	+	1,372,682
Paid to policy-holders.	6,971,793	5,604,726	+	1,367,067
Legal reserve	61,817,814	57,648,888	+	4,168,936
Special reserv.e	2,294,786	2,186,188		108,598
Total re-insurance and special reserves	64,112,600	59,835,072	+	4.277,528
Life assur'ce in force	237,304.739	225,765,843		14,001,862
Accident do	217.236,164	208,617,249	+	8,618,826

As an institution writing life, accident, liability and health insurance the Ætna claims to be the largest in the world. During its long career, the length of which is indicated by the last being the 55th annual report, this strong, popular and well-managed company has paid \$145,918,246 to its policy-holders, whose just claims are always promptly and literally settled.

We recently had the pleasure of announcing that the president, the Hon. Morgan G. Bulkeley, had been elevated to the Senate of the United States, a dignity well deserved by his eminent services in various spheres of public life. President Bulkeley has contributed materially to the progress and prosperity of the Ætna Life by his sound judgment, vigorous administration and the confidence placed in this integrity and business ability.

The business of the company's Eastern Canada branch, which includes the Province of Quebec, is controlled by Mr. T. H. Christmas, who has been connected with the Ætna Life for nearly forty years. The operations of the company are confined to the United States and Canada. The amount paid annually by the Ætna for matured endowments on the lives of Canadians heads the list.

CANADA ACCIDENT ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The 17th Annual Meeting of the Company was held at its offices No. 1727 Notre Dames street, Montreal, on the 15th inst., and the report presented by the directors was very satisfactory. The net premium income amounted to \$49,903, an increase of \$4,735 over 1903. The claims paid and outstanding for the year were \$15,264, the loss ratio being 30.58 per cent. The assets amount to \$132,328, and the surplus over all liabilities, including reserve of unearned premiums, \$46,207. The balance at credit of profit and loss account, after making provision for outstanding claims and all other contingencies, is \$14,071.

LOAN FLOTATIONS AND FOREIGN TRADE.

The importance attached to foreign loans as a means of developing national commerce is illustrated by recent financial events in Constantinople. France has played quite a part in furnishing capital for Turkey. The French financiers took measures to satisfy themselves reasonably well about the security and safety of the funds they were supplying; and the French Government reaped considerable political advantages in its relations with Turkey through the financial backing furnished by Paris bankers. These relations have been just now strained to the breaking point. Indeed, the news is that the French Ambassador at Constantinople, M. Constans, has informed the Turkish Government that the French market is closed to any fresh Turkish loans.

The trouble is owing to the intervention of France's old enemy, Germany. It seems that Turkey made known her intention of re-arming her artillery. This meant the placing of large orders for heavy guns, for which both the French and German makers entered into competition. Turkey's credit is by no means high, customs and other revenues have to be pledged as security for her foreign loans. The competitive struggle for the business would, therefore, be very complicated; financial, commercial, and political considerations all being mixed up together. One competitor might seek to beat the other by offering the loan at lower rate of interest; by concessions as to the security to be given, by offering the material at cheaper prices, or by promising earlier delivery, or proposing some political deal as a bait. The upshot was that the Germans gained the advantage, and the notification from France to Turkey that no more French capital would be lent to Turkey speedily followed.

The Press despatch says:

rolled by Mr. T. H. Christmas, who has been connected with the Ætna Life for nearly forty years. The withdrew its proposals for the projected loan, and

notified the minister of finance, Reshad Pasha, that it would not entertain any request of the Government for advances. The Deutsche Bank then came to the Porte's aid with an offer to assist the treasury. The Germans are thus for the moment in complete possession of the financial field, and an 'Irade' has already been promulgated, ordering the purchase of all the new guns in German factories."

In the case of this Turkish loan the connection between it and the foreign trade of Germany is plain. The securities will be issued, banks and financial houses will take them at first, and afterwards they will find their way into the hands of speculators and investors in Germany and in other European countries. The German factories will turn out the goods and ship them to Turkey, the proceeds of the loan will be paid to the German factory owners for the goods supplied and to the bankers for commissions on the flotation. The greater part of the money does not leave Germany, and German manufactured exports show an increase in consequence of the transaction. In the case also of the Russian loan of \$81,000,000 lately floated in Berlin, the effect on the foreign trade of Germany can readily be seen. This money also was paid, and is being paid, to the Krupps and the other great German arms factories, a large part goes to German workmen as wages. German exports are swollen by the stream of warlike stores poured across the Russian border.

England owes much of her huge foreign trade to London being the best market in the world for foreign Formerly both Russia and Turkey borrowed in London. Political happenings and other things shut out both these borrowing nations from that centre. But a large array of other nations, as well as all the British colonies, patronize London exclusively. Notwithstanding the feelings of hostility and suspicion entertained by Americans towards Great Britain as a result of the Revolutionary war, the war of 1812, and the British sympathy for the South during the Great Rebellion, London was always the supplier of capital for the United States, until they became wealthy enough to supply themselves. These government loans are floated chiefly for the purpose of buying ships and war stores, for railroads and public works, for carrying on as well as for the refunding or renewal of existing loans. Whenever it is possible to do so the purchases are made in Britain, and the proceeds are largely sent out by Britain in the shape of manufactured goods.

The bulk of our own public debt is held in Britain. That was floated for many different purposes. The construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Intercolonial, Canals, and other public works, resulted in the importation by us of large quantities of British goods which we paid for by giving the Britishers our bonds. The different provincial debts, assumed by the Dominion Government at Confederation, were incurred for similar purposes.

Besides the public, or national flotations, London

is bringing out numerous private loans all the time. Railroad, mining, and industrial corporations from different countries, some standing on their own feet and others supported by governmental guarantees, go to London and float bonds when their credit is good enough. Even the United States, wealthy as they are, send some of their best railroad loans to London. In the last few years, however, the British Government has borrowed money in New York, during the Boer war when the London market, having been subjected to an enormous drain of capital, was in an exceptional condition. When in the normal condition London can probably take care of all the loans offered there. It may be said that the effects of the Boer war had not entirely passed from the London market when the present war in the East broke out. Japan being Britain's ally, London was under a sort of obligation to advance money to that rising empire. This it has been doing, and at the same time it has been standing a heavy withdrawal of French capital. When money rates in London became attractive on account of the heavy borrowing by the British Government during the South African war, a large mass of French capital was transferred to London and invested in short date bills. Since the outbreak of the present war, and particularly since the Russian land disasters, this capital has been flowing back to Paris. The preparations for the next Russian loan to be brought out in the French capital in April or before, and the politicalidisturbances beginning about a month ago in Russia, caused a violent increase in the London to Paris movement. London has, it is true, shifted some of this burden on to New York, by selling American securities and by drawing home British capital, accounting in some measure for the abnormal gold export movement from New York to Paris. These circumstances probably account for the unwillingness of the London bankers to encourage fresh colonial borrowings at this time. It has just become known that the Ontario Provincial Treasurer, who went to England a little while ago to float the bonds of the Temiscamingue and Northern Ontario Railway was not able to float them on satisfactory terms even though they bore Ontario guarantee. He was obliged to content himself with obtaining a temporary loan pledging the bonds as collaferal.

A BANKER ON CANADA AND CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP.

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Mr. Byron E. Walker, general manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, delivered an Address before the Canadian Club, Ottawa, on the 4th inst. His subject was, "The Duty of Canadians to Canada."

A passage in the opening part of the Address may be taken as the text from which it was developed. The ideal future for this country would be:

"That condition of national life which will support many, but not too many millions, in comfortable, but not too affluent circumstances, with a civilization which gives us as much liberty as is good for us, a

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stisfactory division among the various classes of men d women of the labour to be performed, and of the wards to flow therefrom, and a full recognition of arts, and of learning in its highest forms and for lown sake."

These conditions, no doubt, are ideal, at present, but a country must have an ideal before it in order for progress to be made. With nation's, as with men, rest means retrogression.

Speaking upon the industrial future of Canada Mr. Walker showed that countries were in duty bound to develop their resources, which he classified as follows:

(1) Those where we reap, but do not sow, and cannot replace, as mines; (2) Those where we reap only as we sow; wheat is an example of this, but an imperfect one, as constant cropping of the soil without rotation or fertilization will mean poverty for a future generation—as the Northwest may discover; (3) Those where we may reap for a time without sowing, but only at the expense of posterity; forests and fisheries are examples of this class.

On the development and conservation of our great national resources Mr. Walker spoke with much energy as he has done on several previous occasions, his convictions being very decided that Canadians have never fully realized the extent of the national wealth which remains to be developed, hence the interference of the country to the reckless destruction of forests, and the neglect of reforestration, although the value of it has been recognized and talked about for over forty years. The enormous areas now being cleared of timber will, in the future, be regarded with self-reproach and keen regret unless efforts on a great scale are made to replace the trees which have been and are being cut down over thousands of acres.

Mr. Walker considers it Canada's destiny to be a perpetual democracy, the inherent defect of which is that, our rulers only represent the average intelligence and morality of the people. Of this low standard he said, "Our politicians and our newspapers are examples. Government at every turn requires expert ability and unselfish devotion-no service should so readily claim it-but democracy will not pay for expert ability and expects only devotion to self. We are not proud of our political conditions, our civil conditions, our civil service conditions, our press. Our present course will lead us to the conditions in the United States. No sincere citizen of the United States is satisfied with the conditions at which democracy has arrived there. Canada must increase the strength of the elements in which she differs from the United States; she must develop a patriotism of a broader aspect, and free from materialism. If she does not she will fall into the hands of the great trusts. dollar is to be almighty, government will become a huge oligarchy."

From these pointed comments on the political conditions and prospects of Canada he branched out into

some very vigorous and scathing criticisms of the daily newspapers. The Canadian daily papers are violent, abusive, partisan because their patrons wished them to be so. They are tainted with cynicism as to public and private virtue. Mr. Walker severely condemned the taste which was pandered to by the society column, and attacked the system in vogue in daily papers of using their columns to exploit individuals and schemes which led to the exaggeration of facts, a course that lowered the moral sease of their readers in regard to personal veracity.

He was very outspoken in regard to the educational system of Canada which, he said, "presents the defects which are almost inseparable from a democracy. Teachers are badly equipped and badly paid." He condemned the theory that the purpose of education is to enable a child to earn its living. He approved technical schools as part of the superstructure, but did not believe in a system of education which did not make children able to think. To spell, write, cipher, to think, to hear evidence, to speak the English language correctly, to behave like a gentleman—education should teach these things. "Character and power to think is the great end of education, not the making of plumbers and electricians."

In concluding his very animated, inspiring and instructive address Mr. Walker put some very pointed questions for Canadians to study.

"We are to succeed industrially, but are we to be a cultured people?" "We are to be rich, are we to be wise? We shall perhaps be eventually among the first in commerce—shall we be among the first in arts and letters? Unless we attain that distinction, he added, we shall not succeed. We are to be a powerful nation—shall we be a just nation? Are we to develop to be what Great Britain now is, the only nation in the world that can be trusted to govern subject peoples justly? We are to be a democracy—will that be a guarantee of freedom, or a mere oligarchy? I am not a pessimist, Mr. Walker declared, but an optimist; a business man to succeed must be an optimist. But optimism must be ballasted with common-sense."

In his peroration he said:

"I am so proud of my country and so confident of my countrymen, I look for the best results. But my ideal of what we should eventually become is so high that all conditions which deter instead of aiding our true progress are irritating. We are just beginning to be on trial before the other nations of the world. It may be easy to do better than most of them have done—but we should do better than the best. Let us, then, be humble in our time of probation, not vain. We cannot become a great nation without developing national character with decided moral greatness. There is enough wrong in our country already to make us anything but vain of our stewardship thus far."

THE EQUITY FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

This company suffered severely by the Toronto conflagration on 19th April, 1904, and by the great fire at Fernie on 1st May. In consequence of these losses the directors made a call of 20 per cent. on the shareholders, which the revenue account shows to have realized \$94,650.

The premiums are stated to have been \$315,795 and interest earnings \$3,551, making a total income for the year of \$319,346. For cancellations there is charged \$48,904, for reinsurance \$49,511, for commission and expenses \$74,785, and fire losses and adjustment expenses \$165,290, a total outgo for the year of \$338,491.

The position of the Equity and the views of the directors, on the business record for 1904, are shown by the statement published on a later page.

As may be seen by the fire table published in this issue of The Chronicle, the fire business in Canada for 1904 was very disastrous for the companies, and the Equity report as presented to the directors, therefore, causes little surprise.

Mr. W. Greenwood Brown, general manager, should derive some consolation from this fact.

PROMINENT TOPICS.

RECEPTION TO THE MINISTER OF MILITIA.—A reception was given on the night of the 15th inst., to Sir Frederic Borden, Minister of Militia, and the members of the Militia Council by the officers of the Montreal Military Institute. All the regiments of the district were represented. Sir Frederick Borden was accompanied by General Lake and Colonel Cotton, members of the Militia Council.

The opportunity was taken to present a memorial to the Minister of Militia regarding the site to be selected for the military school to be established in this city. The memorial sets forth:

"That the location of a military school in the City of Montreal has long been desired as of great advantage to the militia corps in the city and district, and the means of providing for the duty which must be undertaken from time to time for the maintenance of order and security to life and property.

"That the Government has finally decided to establish such a school at Montreal, but owing to opposition, the location of said school has been long delayed."

It then proceeds to point out the advantages of Lafontaine Park as a locality for such school, which the memorial affirms is:

"The only locality for such a school, and the only one readily accessible to the militia for holding field manœuvres, inspections and reviews on account of its proximity to the Drill Hall."

"That outside of the small strip on the east side of the park, which would be used for the building, there would still remain 33 acres of ground the citizens might use, as they have done in the past, as a public playground, when not actually used by the militia for military purposes."

In response to this memorial the Minister of Militia was non-committal so far as the location of the Military School is concerned, but:

"He concurred with the voice of the gathering that such an institution was a necessity, and asserted that if there had been delay during his tenure of office the fault was not his. He said it had been the fashion since Confederation for Governments, including to some extent his own, to get rid of the lands handed over by the British Government, as though it had never occurred to anyone that some day Canada would be in need of a defensive force. In this they had acted the part of fools, but, now, this policy had been changed and so long as he remainedin charge of the department, no land would be surrendered without an equivalent value."

The Minister stated that, in a few months time it would be definitely known where the Montreal Military School would be located.

The Minister of Militia and his colleagues in the Government and Militia Council no doubt will regard the requirements and the conditions of the Military School as paramount considerations, and not the interests of any particular section of the city or citizens.

Shawingan Falls.—A notable event occurred on 15th inst., when the Hon. Robt. Mackay, as president of the Shawinigan Heat & Power Company started the new generator, which gives the company an additional production of 10,500 horse-power or 28,800 in all. The Montreal Light, Heat & Power Company already has been taking 10,000, and will take the remainder of the production. Already there is 53,000 horse-power generated by the water of the Falls which, apparently, were not affected to any extent. The largest generator of electricity in the world is said to be in operation by the above company.

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The occasion drew a large party of visitors who went by special train amongst whom were the Hon. Robt. Mackay, Hon. L. J. Forget, Messrs. H. S. Holt, D. Murphy, ex-M.L.A., of Ottawa; Mr. Aldred, Mr. Melville, H. B. Rainville, W. McLea Walbank, J. N. Greenshields, M. Noseworthy, Chief Engineer Tye, of the Canadian Pacific; Rodolphe Forget, M.P., and others.

Bank of Nova Scotia to Increase its Capital.—At the annual meeting of the Bank of Nova Scotia, at Halifax, on 15th inst., a resolution was adopted authorizing the directors to increase the capital from \$2,000,000 to \$2,500,000 if they deem this advisable. Mr. McLeod, general manager, intimated, it was probable that legislation dealing with bank reserve funds would be proposed for consideration.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has an authorized capital

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of \$2,500,000 of which \$2,000,000 is subscribed and pand up. The reserve fund at end of 1904, was \$3,-200,000. The shareholders were highly delighted at the annual statement as they well might be when it just fed half-yearly dividends of 10 per cent., or 20 per cent. per annum. It was announced that the title "Book of Nova Scotia" would never be changed.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.—King Edward went on 14th inst. to Westminister to open Parliament with the customary ceremonial. His Majesty was accompanied by the Queen, and the Prince and Princess of Wales. The King read his speech in which only a brief reference was made to the war without any intimation of peace negotiations being in progress. Balkans were alluded to as causing anxiety although measures adopted at the instance of the Austro-Russian Governments have been instrumental in bringing about some amelioration in the state of the disturbed districts, but "these measures have still to be supplemented by radical reforms especially of the financial system before any permanent improvements can be effected in the administration of these provinces of the Turkish empire.'

The investigation of the North Sea incident was mentioned, also the Tibetan expedition and the movement to give the Transvaal representative government. The speech was remarkably uninteresting and the coming Session of Parliament also promises to be so as no legislation is likely to be introduced of an exciting nature. It is thought probable that Parliament will be dissolved this year and the country asked to express itself in regard to several questions looming up.

MR. DONALD MACMASTER, K.C.—The Bar of which he is distinguished leader has secured a portrait of Mr. Donald Macmaster, K.C., as a present in recognition of his services as Batonier from 1903 to 1904. The work is by Mr. Robert Harris. Mr. Macmaster is about to take up his residence in London, England, where, it is said, he will be heard of in legal and political circles. In whatever assembly Mr. Macmaster speaks he will command attention and great respect.

THE SNOW RECORD.—Memory in regard to past weather experiences is not trustworthy. Some affirm that never before was there so heavy a snowfall as this winter, others pooh-pooh this and recall far heavier visitations, but as both sides rely on memory the value of their testimony is doubtful. This winter there has been no thaw, as in most previous ones, so what snow has fallen has remained whereas in many previous years the first few falls of snow went away and left the later ones a clear course, hence an apparently higher snowfall than this year.

In this city the removal of snow from the sidewalks has been far more general and thorough than for many past years. Fewer accidents have occurred up to this date, so the claims against the city for damages will be less. Pedestrians all over the city have reason to be thankful for the improved condition of the sidewalks, so far as snow obstructions are concerned, and the rate-payers, as such, will not have their taxes wasted in meeting claims which never would arise were the by-laws enforced.

THE PEEL STREET SNOW REMOVERS.—The dwellers on Peel street, in this city, which is a first-class residential section, have taken the street into their own care failing to get the work they desired done carried out by the Corporation. They have had the snow piled on each side of the roadway scattered over its entire surface, and levelled, then rolled so as to make what they regard as a far superior track for horses and sleighs than is provided by the old system. This procedure it appears is illegal, so the Peel street defiers of civic authority are threatened with the pains and penalties of the law. It would be an interesting sight to see a few score of our prominent citizens hauled before the Recorder, charged with having spent their money in putting their street in what they regard as a better condition than other streets. "The quarrel is a very pretty quarrel as it stands," it will probably lead to some measures being taken to improve the roadway of certain streets which are almost impassable owing to the accumulations of snow and the huge snow mounds which, on both sides, spread some few feet on the roadway.

THE PEEL STREET REBELLION.—Certainly the appearance of lower Peel St., presents a very striking and very pleasing contrast to that of all others except those occupied by the Street Railway tracks. There are no huge snow mounds to disfigure the street, nor a narrow lane between them, as in other first-class streets through which it is almost impossible to drive any v hicle. The residents may be doing what is "agin the law," but they have set a notable example. On 15th inst. the leading residents held a meeting to consider the situation. A determination was expressed to continue such work as would make Peet St. a model for others in residential sections. The idea of snow levelling making it dangerous for horses was repudiated by a number of residents who own valuable horses.

When a thaw comes such work will be done as will prevent dangerous conditions arising. The Peel St. rebellion will probably cause some steps to be taken by the civic authorities as will keep residential streets safely open for carriages, which they were not last season.

THE PRINCE OF WALES IN IRELAND.—The Prince of Wales had a most cordial reception in Dublin and wherever he appeared in public places during his visit to Ireland. At Kilmainham having noticed Sergeant Farmer, V.C., on parade, whom he himself had decorated with the Victoria Cross at Pietermatitzburg, called him forward and entered into a friendly con-

versation for some minutes. The Prince also chatted some time with a veteran named William Magee, who served through the Crimean war and the Indian Mutiny. He presented portraits of himself in the uniform of the Cameron High anders to the officers' and sergeants' mess.

Press Pilfering.—After having gone to considerable trouble and expense in securing the data for statistical tables we find the information in these tables appropriated by some of our contemporaries without any form of acknowledgement. This is the second protest we have been provoked into publishing against this discreditable practice.

NATIONAL OF IRELAND.—It is announced that the United States business of the National of Ireland has been reinsured in the Providence-Washington Insurance Company.

A SUGGESTIVE QUESTION RE NORTH WEST LANDS.—What possibilities would there be for a Land Company to acquire the north west lands of the C.P.R.? What a big thing it would be for the C.P.R. and for Canada.

RUMOUR RE EQUITABLE LIFE.—Our esteemed contemporary "The New York Commercial Bulletin," reports in a recent issue that insurance and financial circles in that city have been much interested in reports that an attempt was about to be made to change the method of controlling the Equitable Life Assurance Society. While operated on about the same basis as a mutual company, it is really a stock corporation, with \$100,000 capital, and 51 per cent. of the stock is owned by the estate of the late Henry B. Hyde, who organized the company. For some time there have been two parties in the society, one headed by Mr. James Hazen Hyde, its first vice-president, and the other by Mr. James W. Alexander, the president. It is said that, "Financiers are divided in opinion as to the matter, many holding that Mr. Hyde is acting within his rights as a son of his father, and with his controlling interest in the corporation. Others take the ground that Mr. Alexander, as president of the corporation, naturally should have full control of the administration of the business of the society. The dispute has extended into the agencies and several of the most prominent agents are in line with Mr. Alexander in the matter and will throw their fortunes with him if the split in the corporation reaches the breaking point. The idea of those opposed to Mr. Hyde's policy is stated to convert the society into a mutual organization, but in order to make which change Mr. Hyde's consent will be needed."

The Equitable has attained such distinguished eminence under the managerial control of Mr. Alexander, the president, that the question is naturally suggested, "Why not leave well enough alone?" The proposal to give the 700,000 policy-holders who are scattered all over the world the right to vote at the election of directors could not possibly be acted upon by the great majority, nor would anything be gained to compensate for disturbing existing conditions by which the Equitable has a Board of Directors comprising men of the highest financial and commercial rank in the United States.

PERSONALS.

THE BUSINESS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LIFE in this City is in a very prosperous condition under the control of Mr. G. Herbert Simpson.

Mr. John W. Lambly, who has been connected with the Equitable Life for past fifteen years, has been appointed provincial manager Province of Quebec. His experience with the Equitable should well qualify him for the position.

MR. DAVID BURKE, general manager of the Royal Victoria Life Insurance Co., has returned to the City from the coast. He spent some four weeks visiting the Agencies of the Company in Manitoba, the Territories, and British Columbia. Mr. Burke states that the prospects for business, both commercial and insurance, are good.

Mr. Philip C. P. Kelly has been appointed General Manager for Canada of the State Life Insurance Co. of Indianapolis, Ind., Mr. Bennion having withdrawn from the territory.

AETNA LIFE CHANGES.—At a special meeting of the stock-holders of the Aetna Life, the office of vice-president was revived, and Secretary J. L. English advanced to the position. Major Charles E. Gilbert was made secretary. The office of vice-president of the accident and Lability departments was created, and Walter C. Faxon elected; John M. Parkers, Jr., was made department secretary of the accident department, and J. S. Rowe secretary of the liability department. The office of assistant treasurer was made, and Morgan Bulkeley Brainard placed in the position.

Hotes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

MONTREAL CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending February 16th, 1905—Clearings, \$20.976.205 corresponding week, 1904, \$15,484.440; corresponding week, 1903, \$18.296.384.

THE MANUFACTURERS' LIFE has established its head office for Great Britain in Manchester, which is a judicious choice, as this city is the centre of a great population.

LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE, MONTREAL.—The following officers were recently re-elected by the Chamber of Commerce in this city: President. M. A. A. Brault, vice-presidents. Messrs. Catelli and U. Garand; treasurer. M. Surveyor, M. Haynes, secretary.

LADIES' LIFE ASSURANCE.—The coming man takes the place of life assurance in a lady's thoughts, but so many ladies are now earning an income independently of their friends that they may appropriately think of life assurance against the hypothetical man's arrival. Should he

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A Sco ing, "Mo lowing:by the sa bank. "C he borros title which collateral calls the his act is of the las his secret of copper and issues ily stamps bank, and remaining conducts 1 of \$6,700. stock doll the bank b "C," the i will receiv larger tha "B's" chec indebtedne but to ma innocent ic

GOOD A Bulletin of some pithy try to suit everything knowledge. with a long sities of hir just as his then make I more about will follow You can't a patients who you do, and is always rea vice. So if place, be on Don't boast it off. Jus enough, and in view of th applicant. Ke

materialize, the life assurance policy of the lady will not detract in his eyes from her charms, and may become a valuable asset in the contingencies of married life. If he should fail to appear on the horizon, what solace could equal an endowment policy, with its prospective provision for the lady's c'eclining years? With the amount of the policy in her possess on she can purchase an annuity, and be free from mondary anxiety for the rest of her days. There is a wide filed for the life assurance companies in female assurance. Prehion rules the feminine mind, and ladies' life assurance has only to become fashionable to be indispensable. "Are you insured?" If that question were popular amongs; fashionable ladies, the persuasion of an insurance agent would become unnecessary.

A Scotch View of Mr. Lawson.-Under the heading, "More Lawsoniana," the Scottish Critic has the following:-"B," a western farmer, tills his soil and receives, by the sale of his wheat, \$10,000, which he deposits in the bank. "C" purchases with \$3,300 ("B's" money), which he borrows from the bank a copper mine, depositing the title which he receives from the seller with the bank as collateral for the \$3,300. After purchasing, he arbitrarily calls the copper mine worth \$10,000-arbitrarily, because his act is not controlled nor regulated by any of the laws of the land-arbitrarily, because the actual cost, \$3.300 is his secret and his alone. Then "C" organizes his \$3,300 of copper property into the Arbitrary Copper Company, and issues to himself a piece of paper, which he arbitrarily stamps, "10,000 stock dollars." This he takes to the bank, and by loan or other device exchanges it for the remaining \$6,700 belonging to "B," and thereafter "C" conducts his affairs on the basis that he is the possessor of \$6,700. The next step is where "C" sells his 10000 stock dollars to "B" for \$10,000 which he withdraws from the bank by simply making out a cheque in favour of "C," the inducement being the high rate of interest "B" will receive in the form of dividends, which rate is much larger than the bank can afford to pay. "C" deposits "B's" cheque with the bank, and thereby liquidates bis indebtedness to the bank. Such is Mr. Lawson's tale, but to make it work, the American banker must be an innocent idiot.

GOOD ADVICE AND HINTS TO LIFE AGENTS .- In the Bulletin of the Fidelity Mutual, President Fause gives some pithy and valuable advice and hints to agents. "Don't try to suit your applicant by offering him his choice of everything you have in stock. Instead, with your expert knowledge, with a view to his present circumstances and with a long look into the future toward the coming necessities of himself and his beneficiaries, make up your mind just as his physician would, what is best for him-and then make him take it. Make it a point to know so much more about insurance than your applicant knows, that he will follow your advice as he would follow his doctor's. You can't always do this; you will have some refractory patients who think they know more about their cases than you do, and who will change doctors; but the average man is always ready to recognize and follow honest expert advice. So if you would be a professional man, in the first place, be one. Know your subject; it is broad and deep-Don't boast of your knowledge, or be too ready to show it off. Just have it; people will know the fact soon enough, and to your profit. Then apply your knowledge, in view of the mutual requirements of the company and the applicant. Keep up your professional reading by subscrip-

tion to a first-class insurance journal. Take a justified pride in the preparation of your professional papers. Shun unprofessional methods, and set your face against rebating and its accompaniments for the sake of saving your profession from their certain demoralizing results. hesitate to assume professional responsibility; decline requests that you know are unfair instead of pretending to feel aggrieved with the applicant when his request is denied by the company.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

LONDON LETTER

London, Eng., 2nd Feb., 1905. FINANCE.

Hudson's Bays are once more rising, persistent buying having taken them now up to \$275 for the \$50 paid share-Some days practically the only feature of the industrial market has been the busy dealings in "Bays," and the people who a year ago were talking them up to 50 are now talking them up to 75. Occasionally there are setbacks but in the end the interrupted advance is taken up, and the price moves on to higher levels. The reason for it all is, of course, the obviously better position of the company, and the good prospect for the current year.

British investors are suffering a good deal just now from the activity of several groups of share pushers and bond sellers from America. One concern calling itself the American Exploration Company has opened a store in the Strand, and another in the City proper. At these places bonds and shares are sold over the counter, the companies which they represent being wild cat concerns in Topanah. etc. The store windows are adorned with choice specimens of rich ore, alleged samples of the companies' products, and more men at the counters press elegant chromos, masquerading as share certificates upon the people who walk, payment being usually arranged in instalments spread over so many months. Another concern calling itself the State Banking Corporation, Ltd., of Liverpool and London, works on a rather different plan, offering a fully paid \$250 bond, payable after the subscriber has completed 150 monthly payments of \$1.25 each. The seductiveness of the offer lies in the fact that by this plan the investor's \$187.50 earns a further \$62.50 interest in the 121/2 years. The supposition, however, that any of these concerns will last out so many years is difficult to maintain in face of the destructive criticism the whole of these schemes are having meted out to them by capable investigators.

A good long time ago I gave in these columns an analysis of the position of that great group of British investments concerned with breweries. These industrials have been declining in favour for years now, owing to a drop in their earning powers. This week we have heard the huge Meux Brewery has been unable to pay even its preference dividends, and this, coming as the climax of a series of similar trouble throughout the brewing industry, has brought at last a storm of protest against the secrecy pretty generally observed in regard to brewery accounts. Will it be believed that in the case of the Meux, holders of three million dollars of debentures, and two and a half million dollars of preference shares have been for seventeen years absolutely without any information as to the state of their affairs.

Usually the ordinary or common stock of these breweries is held by the vendors, and only the preference and debenture issue by the public. At least ten of the biggest brewers observe this secrecy in their account. It does not follow, of course, that in every case where the ordinary stock was originally offered to vendors, it has since all been retained by the said vendors, so that we get a further extension of the class who have a right to know how their investments are going. Under the leadership of a leading Stock Exchange member, they are now insisting on open publication of such accounts.

INSURANCE.

The abominable weather we have been experiencing of late has seriously upset some of our leading insurance men, the names of many of whom are known on your side of the Atlantic. For instance, a good deal of concern has been expressed with regard to the genial and capable Mr. F. W. P. Rutter, the general manager of the London and Lincolnshire Fire Insurance Company. He is only just recovering from a severe illness, and is not likely to return to his office for a month or more from the time these lines appear in print.

It was probably a little consolation to Mr. Rutter in the trying time through which he has passed, to have been able to reflect that his office is expected to show a very handsome profit for last year, despite its share in the big fires which blazed their way across 1904.

Between the time when marine underwriters are thanking their stars that they have left most of the war risks to Lloyds, they are engaged in another attempt to arrange harder rates in the marine business generally. The one good result so far is that the market for risks that have left little or no profit in the past is not so easy to find as heretofore. The war risk market has had to bear the losses on ten captures of blockade runners, etc., since the fall of Port Arthur. As a sample of what these captures mean for Lloyds, it may be stated that upon the capture, just announced, of the Siam—a vessel which left Cardiff two months ago with a cargo of coal for Vladivostock—British underwriters sustain a loss of \$250,000.

The Lawson who has been figuring prominently in British eyes just recently is not to be confounded with the Bostonian who has been conducting so dashing a bear campaign in the full light of day. Our Lawson, his other names being Henry John, has just had to go away to the calm seclusion of a retreat for a term of twelve months in connection with a series of company promoting frauds. He figures here because it is of interest to recall that in fearfully bombastic language he floated in June. 1891, the Assurance Trust, which was to be all that its name implies, but which came to ruin speedily.

STOCK EXCHANGE NOTES

Wednesday, p.m., February 15, 1905. Led by Canadian Pacific, the market developed activity this week, and the general list closed strong and firm. while Canadian Pacific had a decided advance, and seems likely to go higher. At the regular half-yearly meeting of the Directors held on Monday, the usual dividends for the first half of the current fiscal year which ended on 31st December last, were declared-2 per cent. on the Preferred Stock, and 3 per cent, on the Common Stock for the half year. After providing for working expenses, fixed charges and allowing for the dividends above mentioned, the earnings for the half-year show the handsome surplus of \$2; 452,531. The weekly gross earnings continue to show handsome increases, and the prospects are that the Company will have a most satisfactory and gratifying year. One is naturally nervous of buying a stock which has had such a decided advance, but, granted no unforseen market disturbances eventuate, it is likely that Canadian Pacific will have a further rise. The Soo stocks have shared in the advance and scored a good gain in price. There have been no notable occurrences in the financial situation, and whatever developments that effect the market that there were, have been of a satisfactory nature. For instance, the reduction of the German bank rate the power, was for shadowed by the recent rate for money in the open market in that centre. Toronto Railway and Twin City continue to be neglected, but Toledo and Detroit were more prominent in the trading, and are both firmer in price. A fairly active business was done in Nova Scotia Steel Common, and under the liquidation the price declined over a point.

Montreal Bank rates for call money remain at 4½ per cent., with ample supplies. In New York the ruling rate for call money to-day was 2 per cent. while the London quotation was 2½ per cent.

The quotations for money at continental points are as follows:--

Paris	Market.	Bank
Paris	. 27	3
Amsterdam	2	4
		3
Brussels	24	31
	28	3

Canadian Pacific closed with 138½ bid a net advance of 4½ points for the week, and 7,344 shares were dealt in. The stock was the most active of this week's market. The new stock also shows an advance of 4½ points, closing with 134½ bid, and 1.804 shares changed hands during the week. The earnings for the first week of February show an increase of \$140,000.

Soo Common advanced to 106¼, and closed with 106 bid. a net gain of 6 points over last week's closing quotation. The stock was quite active, and 1.445 shares changed hands.

The Grand Trunk Railway Company's earnings for the first week of February show an increase of \$236.713. The stock quotations as compared with a week ago are as follows:—

First Preference	001	To-day. 1121 1001 481
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Montreal Street Railway, which has been neglected for some time, developed activity to-day, advancing over 3 points. The closing quotation was 217¼ bid, a gain of 5¾ points for the week on sales of 1.548 shares. The New Stock closed with 216½ bid, and 395 shares were involved in the week's business. The earnings for the week ending 11th inst show an increase of \$5.846.50, as follows:—

Sunday	\$4,987.37 6,487.44 7,030.35 6,712.50 6,416.52 6,594.37 7,520.13	Increase. \$1,366.70 666.25 1,135.09 812.46 291.77 659 79
	.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	914.44

Toronto Railway closed unchanged from a week ago with 104% bid. The trading was small, and only 243 shares figured in the week's business. The earnings for the week ending 11th inst. show an increase of \$4,361.09 as follows:—

Monday	\$3,144.87	\$510.33
1 Uesday	6,665.99 6,836.52	508.12 683.61
WedneedayThursday	6,983.31 7,013.87	705.19
Friday	7,134.53	626.39 713.58
Saturday	8,182.57	613.87

Two meeting, 1/2 point ings for \$4.50 40.

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R. & O. last week's shares.

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Dominion with a 181/2 vailing a waith a gain dealt in. The with 811/4 1

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Dominion vance, and from last v In the Pressales being the Bonds.

> Call mor Call mor Call mor Bank of Consols. Demand 60 days

The mark firm through somewhat fi Pacific was to 137¼, an up to 134¾. Power was:

Two Cty transfer books are now closed for the annual meeting and the stock closed with 104% bid, a decline of ½ point from last week on sales of 705 shares. The earnings for the first week of February show an increase of \$4.50-40.

The annual statement of the Detroit United Railway Company shows net earnings from operations for the past year of \$1.778.712, and a total income of \$1.821.490. The surple carried forward after paying dividend on the Common Stock was \$245.703, being slightly under 6 per cent, on the Common Stock for the year. The stock advanced 134 points this week, and closed with 785% bid on transactions involving 1,515 shares.

There was only one sale of Halifax Tram this week. 25 shares changing hands at 109. The stock was offered at 110 at the close.

Toledo Railway advanced from 24¾ and closed with 24¾ bid, a net gain of 2½ points for the week, and 435 shares were dealt in.

Mackay Common transactions involved 812 shares, and the closing quotation shows an advance of ½ point with 43½ bid. The Preferred Stock closed with 75% bid, a decline of 5% of a point for the week, and 690 shares changed hands. Around the present level the stock should be an attractive speculative investment.

There was only one sale of Ogilvie Preferred this week, so shares changing hands at 132. The closing bid was 132, a gam of 32 point for the week.

There were no transactions in Lake of the Woods Pre-

R & O. closed with 62% bid, a fractional decline from last week's closing quotation on sales for the week of 226 shares.

Montreal Power has gained in price and closed firm. The stock was fa'rly active, and 2,709 shares were involved in the week's business. The closing bid was 8034, a gain of 2% points for the week.

Dominion Iron Common, on sales of 1.195 shares, closed with a 18½ b'd, which is the same quotation as that prevailing a week ago. The Preferred Stock closed with 63¾ bid, a gain of ¼ point for the week, and 155 shares were dealt in. The Bonds are fractionally stronger, and closed with 81¼ bid, and \$23.000 figured in the week's business.

Nova Scotia Steel Common closed with 67½ bid, as compared with 68 last week, and 1,960 shares came out during the week. In the Preferred Stock 10 shares sold at 112. There was one transaction in the Bonds, \$500 changing hands at 108¼.

Dominion Coal Common has * *at a transport to the recent advance, and closed with 65½ bid, a decline of 1½ points from last week's closing quotation on sales of 735 shares. In the Preferred Stock 32 shares changed hands, the last sales being made at 115½. There were no transactions in the Bonds.

	Per	cent.
Call money in Montreal		41
Call money in New York		2
Call money in London		21
Bank of England rate		2½ 3
Consols		100
Demand' Sterling		91
60 days Sight Sterling		91

Thursday, p.m. February 16th, 1905.

The market opened strong this morning, and continued firm throughout the day, but Canadian Pacific has reacted somewhat from the highest. The opening of Canadian Pacific was at 138%, and it advanced to 138% selling down to 137¼, and closing with 137¼ bid. The New Stock sold up to 134%, and the last sales were made at 134. Montreal Power was a strong feature, and after opening at 81, sold

up to 821/2, and closed with 82 bid. Montreal Street sold at 217, and closed with 216 bid. Twin City was traded in between 10478 and 105, while a broken lot of Toronto Railway changed hands at 105. Detroit Railway opened at 78%. and advanced to 791/4. closing with 79 bid. Toledo Railway opened at 25, and sold up to 26. Montreal Cotton was firm at 98. Mackay Common sold at 43% and 43%, and the last sales were made at 43%. The Preferred sold at 755%. Nova Scotia Steel Common reacted from 675% at the opening to 67, and closed with 67% bid. Soo Common sold at 1061/2 and 1061/4, closing with 106 bid. The Iron stocks were firm, the Common selling between 181/4 and 18%, while the Preferred sold between 64 and 63%, closing with the latter price bid. Dominion Coal Common sold at 651/2, while Dominion Iron Bonds, after opening at 811/2, advanced to 817/8, and closed with 81 % bid. Some Switch Preferred at 109. Switch Common at 80, and Riches lieu at 63 completed the day's business, with the exception of some scattered transactions in the bank stocks and \$17,-000 Winnipeg Railway Bonds, the last sales in which were made at 106.

MONTREAL STOCK EXCHANGE SALES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1905.

	MORNING	BOARD.	
No. of Shares.	Price	No. of Shares.	Price
100 C.P.R	13834	50 Detroit Ry	79.4
300 "	1381/2	50 "	79%
10 "	138%	150 Power	81
50 "	138	50 "	81%
14 "	138	3 "	81
150 "	138	25 "	81 %
25 "	13814	2 "	81
25 "	138	200 "	81%
25 " "	138	50 "	813/
325 New C.P.R	13434	125 "	82
10 "	13434	5 "	82 ¥
	1344	25 "	82
10	134	50 Montreal Cotton	98
3	134	25 "	98
95	13414	36 "	.8
)	134	100 Scotia Com	67 56
25	134	50 "	67 14
100 Twin City	104%	25 "	671
150 "	105	25 "	67%
50 Soo Com	10,19	150 Iron Com	181
150	1061	25 "	1834
350 Mont Street	217	75 "	18%
50 "	217	25 " Pfd	64
55 R. & O	63	25 "	6336
25 Toledo Ry	25	75 "	63%
25	25%	25 Mackay Com	43%
345	25 1/2	75 "	43%
107	25%	25 Coal Com	Se K
45	25%	13 Bank of Commerce.	160%
/3	25 5%	4 " "	160
	25%	I Bank of Montreal	255×
6 Switch Com	80	\$4,000 Winnipeg Bonds	105%
It I'm	10)	13,000	106
25 Detroit Ry	7814	9,000 Iron Bonds	8116
.,,	79	11,000 "	8156
15 "	78%	12,000 "	81%
47	FRRNOO	ECARD.	
too C.P.R	138	150 Mackay Com	401/
75 "	137%		43%
	137%	4- 11 mm	43.4
	137%	100 Detroit Ry	75%
	37%		79
	217		19%
75 Power	8214	125 Toledo Ry	79
100 "	82%	Ico Scotia Com	26
50 "	82%	25 Iron Pfd	67
75 "	8256	\$2,000 Iron Bonds	631
50 "	821/4	15 Montreal Cotton	8176
m . m.	105		98
	105		169
	9	vemilitiet	

5 Commerce..... 160

The gross traffic earnings of the Grand Trunk Canadian Pacific, Canadian Northern, Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic railways, and the Montreal, Toronto, Halifax, Twin City and Havana street railways, up to the most recent date obtainable, compared with the corresponding period for 1902 and 1903, were as follows:

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

Year to date. 1903 Jany, 31 \$2,634,110 Week ending. 1903. Feby. 7 582,312	\$2,253,378 1904. 326,869	\$2,556,340 1905. 563,582	Increas: \$302,962 Increase 236,713
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CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

Yes Jany.	r to date.	1903.	1904. \$2,896,000	1905. \$3,246,000	Increase
			+-,090,000	\$3,240,000	* 350,000
		C			

GROSS TRAFFIC EARNINGS

 	I W	WALL DVE	IINGS	
7 · · · · · · ·	\$705,000	1904. 615,000	1905. 755,000	Increase 140,000

NET TRAFFIC EARNINGS.

Month.	1902.	1903.	1904	. Inc.
anuary	\$820,461	\$ 916,771	\$357.652	Dec. \$559,119
February	674,361	742,741	82,541	" 559,119
March	1,054,915	1,258,564	850,854	660,200
April	1,291,706	1,493,173	412,533	407,710
May	1,166,892	1,383,357	1.201.565	80,640 8,208
June	846,737	1,246,055	1.440.011	203,856
July	1,175,711	1,318,527	1.449 652	131,125
August	1,362,901	1,434,102	1.527.030	
September	1,410,755	1,202,266	1.268.808	93,827
October	1,616,134	1,654,027	1.566.TT4	Dec. 87.012
November	1,558,240	1,477,981	1 660 575	-117-3
December	1,672,442	1,581,145	1.662.660	191,594
				81,524

Total 14,651,255 15.708,709 13,689,804

CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY.

GROSS TRAFFIC EARNINGS.

July 1st, 1902 to June 30, 1903 \$2,304,450 Week ending. Feb. 7	July 1st, 1903 June 30, 1904 \$3,124,800 1904. 40,400	•	Increase \$820,35. Increase
---	---	---	-----------------------------------

DULUTH, SOUTH SHORE & ATLANTIC

Week ending. Jany. 7	1902. 39,187	1903. 36,145	1904.	Increase
21	40,647 38,611	41,969	40672	Dec. 1,29

MONTREAL STREET RAILWAY.

Month. January February Marca April June July August September. October November, December. Week end	1903. \$ 168,883 139,065 168,987 170,050 170,773* 205,454 212,337 208,586 212,156 204,452 187,930	1904. \$ 182,386 167,023 183,689 184,905 217,341 229,565 223,137 226,764 216,295 219,633 201,147 208,428	1905 \$ 201,c96	Increase 18,710
Feby. 7	ing. 1903.	39,56 S	1905. 45,595	Increase 6,427

TORONTO STREET RAILWAY.

1000 2000 1000	1955		LWAY.	
Month. January February March	\$ 161,938 146,539 159,943 † Spanish Silver.	183,643	\$ 196,970	Increase \$17,610

Month	TORONTO	STREET RAI	LWAY.	
April	162,276	183,763	1905	Increase
May	174,519	198,337		
June	177,593	207,482		
July	192,629	211,356		
August	185,822	217,887		
September.	237,010	246,862		
October	183,810	202,344		
November.	174,039	198,150		
December.	199,115	213,662		
Week endir	ng. 1903. . 36,619	1904. 42,823	1905. 45,099	Inc 2,276

TWIN CITY RAPID TRANSIT COMPANY.

Month. January February . March	\$310,084 280,947 317,839	1904. \$329,354 310,180 338,580	19c 5. \$349,469	Inc. 20,115
April May June July August	315,465 337,699 346,018 362,702 363,579	332,615 358,344 365,897 383,224		
September. October November. December. Week endi	370,349 346,673 333,424 357,452	386,629 371,476 365,938 352,433 374,738 1904. 73,729	1905. 78,328	Inc 4,599

HALIFAX ELECTRIC TRAMWAY Co., LTD. Railway Receipts.

Month.	1903.	1904	1905.	Incr
February.	\$10,867	10,677	\$10,256	Dec. 42
March	9,322	9,894		
March	10,195	11,152		
April	10,533	11,145		
May	10,768	12,074		
June	11,844	14,051		
July	15,942	17,528		
August	16,786	17,402		
September	18,494	17,862		
October	12,055	12,434		
November	11,220	11,085		
December	12,160			
Week end		12,163		
		1904.	1905.	Inc.
		2,320	2,365	45
14		2,454	2,516	62
21		2,519	2,416	Dec. 103
31	3,555	3,384	2,959	
Feb. 7	2,332	2,441		425
	-133-	-,411	2,108	333

Lighting Receipts.

January	\$13,863	\$ 16,317	\$ 15,667	Dec. 650
February.	11,924	14,227	4 -31-01	Dec. 630
darch	10,523	12,718		
April	10,156	12,116		
May	9,020	9,756		
June	8,368	8,998		
July.,	8,351 8,826	8,952		
August	8,826	9,596		
September	10,781	11,720		
October .	13, 186	14,209		
November	14,200	16,273		
December	16,611	17,684		

HAVANA ELECTRIC RAILWAY Co.

Month, Jan Feb. March April June July Aug Cot Nov Week ending	1902. 187,597 87,054 101,951 98,435 120,712 91,223 104,565 109,092 105,959 106,139 102,349 104,791 1904	1903, \$102,000 104,647 120,389 119,974 130,925 120,818 127,271 133,885 128,323 125,031 122,415 127,644 1905.	1904. †130,709 130,579 144,921 139,505 140,256 137,273 145,623 152,135 143,623 145,781 141,540 150,668	Increase. †28,709 25,932 24,533 19,531 16,455 18,352 18,250 15,300 20,750 19,125 23,024 Increae
Feby. 7	32,155	34,538		2,383

Richeli St. Joh Toledo Toronto Trinida I'win Ci Windson Winnipe

Hali Ham Inter

Mont

North-

Ogilvie

Inc ,276

c. 115

STOCK LIST

Reported for THE CHRONICLE by R. Wilson-Smith & Co., 160 St. James Street, Montreal.

Corrected to February 15th, 1905, P.M.

BANKS.	Capital subscribed	Capital paid up.	Reserve Fund.	Per centage of Rest to paid up Capital, p	value of one share.	of one	Dividend for last	Revenue per cent. on investment at present prices.	1 1	ices cent	When Dividend payable.
British North America Canadian Bank of Commerce		4,866,66	6 1,946,666	40,00	\$ 243	3	Par Cent.		Aske	1. Bid	
Crown Bank of Canada	755.000	8,700,000 622,851	1	40 23	50 100	315 90	34	4 61	:::.	130	June De
Dominion Eastern Townships	3,000,000	3,000,000 2,477,985		110 66 60.53	100	170 00	31.	4 70	170	160	Jan Apl Jny Out
Hamilton Hoohelags Imperial La Banque Nationale	2.000,000	2,235,386 2,000,406 3,000,006 1,500,006	1,200,000	94.00 60.00 100.00 30.00	100 100 100	134 00	5 34 5	5 22 4 16	184 240	i°3	January July June Dec
Merchants Bank of P.E.I		344,073	296,000	86.02	30 32.44		3				May Nov
Metropolitan Bank Molsons Montreal	6,000,000 1,000,000 3,000,000 14,000,000	6,000,000 1,000,000 3,000,000 14,000,000	3,200,000 1,000,000 3,000,000	53,33 100,00 100.00	100 100 50	169 50	34	4 11 4 46	224	160	July Dec.
New Branswick	500,000	500,000	800,000	71,42 16).00	100	256 00	6	3 90	256		June Dec.
ova Scotia	2,000,000 1,500,000	1,500,000	3,200,000 600,000	160.00	100 100 100	275 00	6 5	3 63	275	265	January July February Aug.
Ottawa People's Bank of Halifax	2,500,000 1,000,000	2,500,000 1,000,000	2,500,000	100.00	100	141 00	3	4 25	141		June De .
People's Bank of N. B	180,000	180,000	175,000	97 22	150		4		••••		March Sejt.
Quebec	846,537 2,500,000 3,000,000	823,309 2,500,000	1,(0),000	40.00	100		i	::::	::::		January July
Royal Sovereign Bank	1,800,000	3,000,000 1,300,000	3,000,000 350,000	100.00 26.92	100	129 00 225 00	31	5 42 3 55	225	2104	June Dec.
Standard	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	100 00	50		11.		••••		Feb. MayAug. Nov
St. Stephens St. Hyaci uthe St. Johns	200,000 504,600 500,200	200,000 329,515	45,000 75,000	22.50 22.76	100		24	::::	::::	::::	June Dec.
Toronto	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,300,000	3,60	100	*******	. 3	::::	::::		April Oct.
Traders	2,600,000 1,336,150	2,564,797 1,336,150	700,000	27.29	100	234 00	5 & 11	4 70	••••		June Dec.
Union Bank of Canada,	2.500.000	2,500,000	931,405	69.70 40.00	50 .		31	:			Tune Dec.
Yarmouth	500,000 300,000	800,000 300,000	217,500 35,000	48.50 11.66	100 .	140 00	31	5 00	****	· · · · J	une Ang.
MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS.							24		••••	··· P	eb. Dec.
Bell Telephone. Can. Colored Cotton Mills Co	7,975,100 2,700,000	7,916,980 2,700,000	135,607	25,58	100		2.				an Apl.Jul.Oct.
anada General Electricanadian Pacific	1,475,000 101,400,000	1,475,000 87,880,000	265,000		100		5				Annary
ommercial Cable	15,000,000 12,500,000	15,000,000 12,500,000	4,923,122	34.75	100	138 12	19. 41	4 34		1000	an Anl Jule Cef.
ominion Coal Preferreddo Common	3,000,000	3,000,000			100	78 75	1*	5 12	78}	108 -	. n.o une Spt.Dec.
do Common	15,000,000 3,033,600 20,000,000	15,000,000 3,033,600		::::		66 00	1.	:::.	66	651 3	an. July.
go Pid.	5,000,000			:::	100	18 25 66 00	::	::::	181		
nluthS. S. & Atlantic	12,000,000									001	
alifax Tramway Co	10,000,000 1,350,000 1,700,000	1,350,000		*****	100	10 (0	ij.	33-		::: :	an.Apl.July Oct
do Pfd	2,278,000	1,700,000 2,278,000			100		24				an.Apl.July Oct
tercolonial Coal Co do Preferred	500,000 219,700	500,000 219,700			100		"				
urentide Paper Co	1,600,000 1,200,000	1,000,000		12.06	100	02 00	76	1121		P.	Jan. b,MayAug Nov
ke of the Woods Mill. Co.,Pd	1,500,000	1,500,000			100		31 8		• • • • •		
urentide Paper Co. urentide Paper Co. urentide Paper Pfd. ke of the Woods Mill. Co. Pd. recom Wireless Telegraph Co. ukay Companies Com. do rehants Cotton Co.	50,000,000	11,307,400		*****	5						August
rchants Cotton Co	1,500,000	35,885,500	300,000		100 7	6 00	i•			5 Ja	n.A Jul Oci
	7,000,000 1,000,000	7.000,000				6 37	3			0	
ntrealCotton Co.,	3.000.000	9 000 000			00						
ntreal Light, Ht. & Pwr. Co	7,000,000 1				00 8	7 50	24.	9 27 4 93	81 8	7) Me	b.MayAug.Nov
do New	2,000,000	2.000,000	*********	13.31	50 10 50 10	8 75 8 25	24*	4 60 2 4 62	17½ 21 21		b.MayAug.Nov
donar Sait Com	7,000,000	7,000,000			40		42			Ja	n.Apl.Jul.Oct
h-West Land. Com	1 487 881		9.71 to 19.1		00					Ju	ne December
do Pref	3,090,625	3,090,625 1,120,000	********	:::: 1	00		65				reh
vie Flour Mills Co	,030,000	,030,000		1		3 00	3		. 6	Ap	ril October
allon & Ont. Non.	,000,000	000,000		::: 1		00			200 5 133	Ma	ril October Apl.Jul.Oct. r.Jun.Sep.Dec. do
	707.860	,132,000 707,86)	23,101		0 63	25		6	31 65	Z Ma	
to Street Railway	,000,000 12 ,400,000 6	000,000	Prevent .	7.98	0 24	75		30 11	3	Ma	Nov. LJun.Sep Dec
City Rapid Transis Co.	200,000 1	,032,000 \$11,000	www.	8.10	M 105	50	110	76 10	61 104	Jan	Apl. Jul Oct Apl. Jul Oct Apl. Jul Oct MayAug.Nov Mar Jun.Sep ay Nov.
sor Hotel	,000,000 3. 800.000	000,000		4.41	0	07		67 100	104	Feb	MayAug.Nov
A THE LINE ST MAILWAY CO 4	000,000 4,	000,000		10	0			3 33 15		M	AV Nov

Quarterly. †Bonus of I percent Monthly, ¶Price per Share § Annual. & These figures are corrected from last Govt. Bank Statement DFC, 81s

The Equity Fire Insurance Company.

7th ANNUAL MEETING.

As the Annual Meeting of the Company, held at its Head Office, 24 King Street, west, Toronto, Canada,

At the Annual Meeting of the Company, held at 2 p.m., February 1st, 1905.

The President, Thomas Crawford, M.P.P., occupied the chair; W. Greenwood Brown acted as Secretary H. M. Stevenson and H. Begg were scrutineers. The following were elected directors:—Thomas Crawford, M.P.P., C. Van Norman, Judge Morgan, David Carlyle, H. E. Irwin, K.C., W. Vandusen, and W. Greenwood Brown, M. Steatford, W. Hendrie, inn. Hamilton: Stephen Noxon, Ingersoll: D. Hib. C. Van Norman, Judge Morgan, David Carlyle, H. E. Liwin, B.C., W. Vandusen, and W. Greenwood Brown, Perento; A. F. MacLaren, M.P., Stratford; Wm. Hendrie, jun., Hamilton; Stephen Noxon, Ingersoll; D. Hibner, Berlin, and Wm. Govenhock, Seaforth.

The Directors of the Equity Fire Insurance Company in presenting to the shareholders the Seventh Annual

Statement, covering the financial transactions of the Company for the year 1904, take pleasure in calling atten-Statement, covering the mancial transactions of the Company's revenues the gross premiums exceeding those of the previous the continued growth of the Company's revenues the gross premiums exceeding those of the previous type of the continued growth of April the home city of the Company was visited by one of the most disastrous conflagrations in the history of Canada—naturally the Equity covered numero's risks in the fire-swept area, amounting, in fact, to nearly \$100,000. Your Directors were gratified to find that so conservative had been the underwriting of the Company, its net loss was but a little more than one-half the amount at risk. Following close upon this was the Company, its flet loss was but a fitte flore than the Company found itself confronted with net fire losses of \$75,000. The Company met all these losses promptly. Public confidence and the faithful efforts of our agents responded with an immediate and a continued increase of business. One result of the seeming misfortune has been, we are persuaded, to permanently establish our reputation as one of the reliable and leading companies of the Dominion.

Arrangements were made about the middle of the year to write, under competent supervision, surplus lines in the United States. The result thus far is very satisfactory. Following the recommendation of the Dominion Government Insurance Department, your Directors made a call of 25 per cent upon the shereholders, which was Government Insurance Department, your Directors image a can of 25 per cent upon the superenoiders, which was responded to in a most gratifying manner, and the Company now possesses practically the substantial paid-up capital of \$150,000, an amount more in keeping with the present large dimensions of the Company's business. In a year unparalleled for losses, the Company is to be congratulated, we think, for having during the past eight months so largely redeemed the position impaired during the first four months of the year. This means that the Company, during the eight months referred to, secured an excess of net income over expenditure of no less than \$55,855.53. It may be observed, also, that out of \$165,290.64 of net fire losses for the year, every adjusted loss was paid, and that only \$5,045.06 unadjusted, but estimated net losses, were carried forward. The cash assets of the Company exceed the Government requirement for reserve by \$56,475.24, and the available cash resources of the Company exceed the subscribed but unpaid capital of \$350,000 amount to \$184.624.21. which gives in all the very ample security to policy-holders of \$534.624.21.

Under these circumstances, and in view of the splendid response to the call, about 95 per cent of it having been met, and believing the business of the Company has reached such proportions and is of such quality that the circumstance of the Toronto conflagration need not interrupt the usual payment of a dividend, more especially since it may be paid out of interest earnings alone, your Directors have accordingly declared a dividend equiva-lent to 6 per cent, upon the original to per cent, paid-up capital of the company. After providing for this dividend, and writing off \$1,000 on plans, furniture, etc., there remains an accumulated reserve, over and above capital, of \$34,624.21. In connection with the successful business done during the last eight months of the year, we desire in a special manner to thank the agents for their loyal support. Consideration is due also to the office staff and a special manner to thank the agriculture of their duties. The term for which the Directors were elected now expires, they are eligible for re-election.

WM. GREENWOD BROWN. General Manager and Secretary.

THOS. CRAWFORD, President.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

To accumulated reserve from 1903. \$57,768 68 "Premiums, 1904. 315.795 48 "Interest Earnings. \$3,230 96 "Interest Accru d. 320 94 To Payments on Capital Stock. 94,650 00	By Cancellations
\$471,766 06	\$471,765 06

DATANCE SHEEM

BALANC	E SHEET.
ASSETS. ASSETS. ASSETS. Sysponsor of Capital Stock liable to Call. Sysponsor of City of Toronto Debentures 41,694 80	By Capital Stock Subscribed

\$549.108.26

\$549.108 26

SECURITY TO POLICYHOLDERS.

Cash in banks, and on hand, \$79.636.15; debentures, \$55.063.02; other assets, \$49.925.04; total, \$184.624.21; obscribed capital uncalled. \$350.000.00; total available resources. Dec. 31, 1904, \$534.624.21. AUDITORS' CERTIFICATE. 31, 1904, \$534-624.21.

This is to certify that we have maintained a continuing audit of the books, examined the vouchers and verified securities of the Equity Fire Insurance Company, for the year ended 31st December, 1904, and find they have been correctly kept and are truly set forth in the above statements.

> C. E. ARNOLDI, Auditors FRED. ROPER.

QUERIES' COLUMN.

order to furnish our readers with information we propose to devote this column to replies to correspondeats. Letters should be addressed to "THE CHRON-ICLE, Enquiry Department, Montreal."

Answers will only be given to such communications as bear the writer's name, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and only to questions referring to matters of general interest in regard to which the Editor of Queries' Column will exercise his own discretion.

1417.-T. H. M., Renfrew.-The following figures give the capital and bonded indebtedness of the various companies you mention :-

Dominion Coal Co. Bonds, 6 p.c.. \$2,551,000 Preferred Stock, 8 p.c... ... 3,000,000 Common Stock 15,000,000 Dominion Iron & Steel Co.

Bonds, 1st Mortgage, 5 p.c... \$8,000,000 Bonds, 2nd Mortgage, 6 p.c... 1,500,000 Preferred Stock, 7 p.c... 5,000,000 Common Stock. 20,000,000 Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co.

Bonds, 6 p.c. 1st and consolidated.\$3,900,000 Prefrred Stock, 8 p.c... ... 1,030,000 Common Stock... 5,000,000

1418.-H. M., Montreal.-The Electrical Development Company of Ontario (Niagara Power) has so far expended \$1,737,267 on plant, and has still \$974,693 on deposit. There is also a further amount of \$1,249,-650 still to come in on bonds. It is expected the plant will be completed and in full operation by the summer of 1906. The Toronto and Niagara Power Co. will distribute the power.

SPLENDID OFFICES OF THE BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Bank of New South Wales, Sydney, has just completed improvements in its offices which have rendered them not only the largest in Australasia, but placed them in the front rank amongst those of the world. There is a clear open space of offices 160 feet deep, with accommodation for 14 Tellers. By the Sydney "Review" we learn that, by the system of this bank, the public can have no access to the ledger keepers. Cheques are handed to the paying Tellers, who either take the responsibility of paying them without reference to the ledgers, or, by means of officers in attendance, pass them in for the scrutiny of the ledger keepers, and some times, of course, for the instructions, of the sub-manager whose room is in close proximity to the ledgers.

A feature of the office building that is highly in-

teresting to visitors, a feature unknown in Canada, is the assay office and melting room. All the gold purchased by the various branches of the bank throughout Australasia goes to Sydney for treatment by the Assay officer. The magnitude of this branch of the bank's business may be gained from the fact that, after the accumulations of a few week's have been prepared, ingots of a total weight exceeding two tons have been taken to the mint in one lot, representing a value of over \$1,250,000. An expert can teil by the appearance of this gold from what locality it came. In this department are scales that will weigh to a ten-thousandth part of a grain. In the melting room at the rear of the Assay office, are three melting furnaces and an assay furnace, besides the necessary testing appliances.

Another feature of this institution is the Clearing House, which is in the basement, as it now is in the Bank of Montreal in this city. At the Sydney Clearing House there are three exchanges every day, so this office usually presents a very busy appearance.

The Bank of New South Wales provides the entire staff of officers with, "a good three course luncheon at a charge of sixpence," say 13 cents, or, a light tea for 6 cents. Smoking and reading rooms for the officers are also provided, with a locker for each officer. Seats in the open air are placed "where a breath of fresh air may be had."

In several respects the improvements of this eminent Australian Bank remind us of those made in the Bank of Montreal in this city. Although the main banking hall of the Sydney Bank is shown by the illustrations in "The Review" to be a magnificent room, with rich appointments and decorations, it is not so imposing, nor so architecturally beautiful in proportions and decoration as the splendid banking office of the Bank of Montreal which is one of the noblest in the world.

The following shows the salient features of the balance sheet at 30th September, 1904:

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES. Liabilities.

		Assets.	
Capital paid up, Reserve fund Circulation Deposits Sundries	10,000,000 6,750,000 4,688,000 105,465,000 17,348,000	Disc'ts and loans Investments Cash reserves Bank premises Sundries	\$ 94,846,000 8,477,000 23,587,000 3,467,500 13,873,500
	144,251,000		144,251,000

The dividend for last year was to per cent. per annum. The close connection of this bank with London is shown by its having \$1,000,000 of "money at short call in the Metropolis, and "bills receivable in London, and remittances in transit" thither to extent of \$9,691,500.

STOCK LIST-Continued.

BONDS,	Rate of Interest per annum		When Interest	Where Interest payable.	Date of Redemption.	Latest quota-	
Commercial Cable Coupon		\$18,000,00	0 [1 Jan. 1 Apl. 1 July 1 Oct.		1 Jan., 2397.	96 96	
Can. Colored Cotton Co Canada Paper Co	:	2,000,000 200,000		Bank of Montreal, Mnotreal Merchants Bank of Can., Montreal	2 Apl., 1902. 1 May, 1917	98	
Bell Telephone Co Dominton Coal Co Domin on Cotton Co Dominton Iron & Steel Co		2,010,000 2,433,000 £ 308,200	1 Apl. 1 Oct. 1 Meh. 1 Sep. 1 Jan 1 July	Bank of Montreal, Montreal Bank of Montreal, Montreal	1 Apl., 1925. 1 Mob., 1913. 1 Jan., 1916.	1064	Redeemable at 11
alifar Tramway Co	5 6	\$ 7.876,000 \$ 600,000 344,000 1,112,000	1 Jan. 1 July	Bank of Montreal, Montreal Bk, of N. Scotia., Hal. or Montreal	1 July, 1929 1 Jan., 1916. 1 Apl., 1918	1061	Redeemable at 11 & accrued interes Redeemable at 10
ontreal Light, Heat and Power oatreal Street Ry. Go	4,	1,000,000 880,074 7,500,000 292,000 681,333 1,500,000	1 Jan. 1 July 1 Mch. 1 Sep. 1 Feb. 1 Aug. 1 May 1 Nov.	Company's Office Montreal. Bank of Montreal, Montreal. Bank of Montreal, London, Eng. Montreal	1 July, 1921 1 July, 1932 1 arch., 1908 1 Aug., 1922 1 May, 1922		Redeemable at 10 after Jan. 1st,191
rilvie Flour Mill Co	6	2,500,000 1,000,000	1 June 1 Dec 1	Union Bank, Halifax, or Bank of Nova Scotia, Mo't'l or T'r'nto Bank of Montreal, Montreal	1 July, 1931. 1 June, 1932.	107	Redeemable at 1
John Railway	44		1 May 1 Nov. B	Montreal and London Bk.of Montreal, Mont'l or London Bank of Montreal, St. John, N.B. Bank of Scotland, London	1 May, 1925 1 July, 1914		Redeemable at 112 Redeemable at 112 Redeemable at 112 p.c. redeemable rearly after 1922
indeor Hotel nnipeg Elec Street Railway ledo Ry, & Light Co.	5 5 5	3,000,000 700,000 5,185,000	I Jan. 1 July B I Jan. 1 July B I Jan. 1 July I Jan. 1 July	ank of Montreal Montreal	1 July, 1912 1 July, 1903	104]	

[FIRE]

German American

Insurance Company New York

CAPITAL PAID IN FULL

\$1,500,000

NET SURPLUS

5,633,249

CASH ASSETS

12,074,306

AGENCIES THROUGHOUT CANADA.