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Some Banking Conditions in Australia. REGARDING Victorian banking returns for the first quarter of 1907, the Australasian Insurance & Banking Review states that the inter-relation between lia-

bilities and assets is fairly satisfactory, the increases in deposits and advances for the quarter being about normal. On the other hand, taking yearly movements into account, it is pointed out that—first, deposits are no longer increasing at the same rate as in the two previous years; secondly, advances show a large increase; thirdly, the proportion of deposits that are fixed has fallen; and fourthly, the ratio of the holdings of coin and bullion has sensibly declined.

Regarding the first point, it is shown that while the quarter ending March 1906 showed an increase of over £3,000,000 in deposits over the corresponding period of 1905, the increase for the first quarter of 1907 is but little over £2,000,000—the total standing at £38,165,945. Decline in prosperity, our contemporary affirms, is not to be held as the cause of this falling off. It is ascribed rather to greater business activity accompanied by a considerable increase in imports, so that traders' balances have been trenched upon.

With respect to total advances, the first quarter of 1906 showed an increase over the 1905 record of about £575.000—while the increase shown at March 31, 1907 over the corresponding date of 1906 is more than £1.675,000. As a consequence, the banking margin is increasing but slowly. Australia like other banking communities has problems to meet that grow out of conditions of active trade expansion.

As to fixed deposits, their ratio to total deposits for the March quarter during three years has been 60.83 p.c. in 1905, 59.6 p.c. in 1906, and 58.36 p.c. in 1907—a declining tendency which The Record deems scarcely satisfactory, considering that 60 p.c. is the desirable normal limit.

Australia being a large gold-producing country,

the fourth point referred to—that of the declining ratio of coin and bullion holdings to liabilities—is not looked upon as a matter for alarm, provided that engagements abroad do not constitute too great a draft upon cash resources. However, a decline from a ratio of 54.49 p.c. to call liabilities for the March quarter of 1906, to one of 44.29 p.c. for the corresponding quarter of 1907 is not a matter to be overlooked. As mentioned in The Chronicle of last week, Australian banks require heavy cash holdings on acount of the island continent's isolation from the world centres of financial activity.

T the recent annual meeting of the Suez Canal Company, Prince Au-Sues Canal. guste von Arenberg, who is president, predicted that the canal had nothing to fear from any projected competition. He said the company held the monopoly of the Suez Isthmus route and any competitive canal, like the proposed German waterway, would have to pass through the Valley of the Jordan, where the engineering obstacles were insurmountable. The Prince further declared that the Suez Canal had nothing to fear from the completion of the Panama Canal, as little American tonnage passed through the former. Besides he believed that every new trade route to the Far East would only serve to augment the traffic through the Suez Canal. The "all-red" fast line by way of Canada, projected for British Imperial interests, may interfere considerably with passenger and mail traffic via the Suez route, even though it is not to be regarded as a freight carrying line.

The world's and Steel Institute and of the Iron Industry. British Iron Trade Association, were held during the past month. During their sessions some important features of the iron and steel industry were brought to attention.

Reviewing the year 1906 from a statistical stand-

point, the secretary of the association stated that the output of iron and steel in most countries, including Great Britain, reached figures that had not been touched in any previous year. The exports of iron and steel, like the output of those metals, attained an exceptional, if not a record volume. He pointed out that the iron trade of the United Kingdom has exhibited a recuperative force, an elasticity and an adaptability that were hardly deemed possible a few years ago, when shrewd observers, including Mr. Andrew Carnegie, had been rash enough to hazard the expression of a belief that Great Britain's iron industry had passed its meridian and was likely in the future to diminish rather than to increase. British production of iron and steel in 1906, in all forms, was probably of the value of fully 160 millions sterling. The exports of iron and iron products, as set out in the Board of Trade returns, have been of the value of over 90.8 millions sterling. Corresponding imports of iron and iron products have been over 20.3 millions sterling. The increased value of imports and exports under both heads, and including imported ores, was not less than 20.6 millions sterling. These figures briefly summarize a situation that is not one of decline.

In the following table is given a statement in tons of the world's production of pig iron and steel during the year.

United	K	C i	n	g	d	le	10	n												Pig Iron. 10,149,388	
																				25,307,191	23,246,251
German	y				,									,	,					12,478,068	11,135,085
																				1,431,460	*
France	,	,		٠.									,			,		,		3,319,032	2,240,284
Spain .																,	. ,		*		*
																					388,000

*Figures not yet published.

A growing preference for the open hearth over the Bessemer process is indicated by the detailed figures of production during 1906.

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The June issue of the Financial

How to Read a Review of Reviews of London, con-Prospectus. tains an article on: How to read a Prospectus, the careful perusal of which should be of service even to investors of considerable experience. There are few investors, the article begins by saying, over whom a prospectus does not exercise a certain amount of fascination, due in part to the fact that every investor does occasionally scan lists of security quotations, where there are various conspicuous examples of stocks which stand at a range of quotations much higher than the prices at which they were originally issued. But the investor should school himself to remember that in such a list he is surveying not a fair average of company-promoting results, but rather the healthy concerns which have survived the ordeals of financial childhood, and have grown to maturity. Against these comparatively robust survivors, he should make due allowance for the large number of concerns which sickened and died in their early

youth, and whose records have perished with them. The analysis of prospectuses, therefore, is well worth attention, and the article proceeds by specific illustrations to make clear certain important points which should be carefully looked to in the perusal of any company literature. One general principal is especially emphasized: when dealing with any prospectus it is always important to take note of the exact form in which the promoters of the concern are content to interest themselves in the company's future.

The Finances of Canada.

The Finance Department at Ottawa is now closing up its accounts for the financial year ended March 31st, and it is anticipated that the final

showing will give a surplus on the consolidated fund of about \$16,500,000, and a debt reduction of \$3,500,000.

The department's current statement shows that the revenue collected for the nine months of the fiscal period ending March 31 last, now amounts to \$67,701,005, while the expenditures for the same period amounted at the end of May to \$51,182,050, leaving a surplus of revenue over expenditures of \$16,518,949. Some accounts, however, have not yet been settled. The expenditure on capital account is \$14,238,491, which leaves a surplus over all the expenditures of \$2,280,458.

For April and May of this year the revenue is placed at \$15,120,007, the May account showing \$8,293,368. For May 1906 the revenue was \$7,203,853, and for May 1905, \$6,193,817.

The expenditure on consolidated fund during May 1907 was \$3,102,147, and the expenditure on capital account \$805,681. The net debt on May 31 stood at \$252,899,561, an increase in the month of \$2,299,903.

May Fire
Losses. The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of May, as compiled by the New York Journal of Commerce, shows a total of \$16,286,300.

The following table shows a comparison by months of the losses this year with 1905 and 1906:

	1905.	1906.	1907.
January	\$16,378,100	\$17,723,800	\$24,064,000
February	25,591,000	18,249,350	19,876 600
March	14,751,400	18,727,750	20,559,700
April	11,901,350	292,501,150	21,925,960
May	12,736,250	16,512,850	16,286,300
Total, 5 months	\$81,358,100	\$363,714,900	\$102,712,500
June	11,789,800	13,950,650	
July	13,173,250	12,428,050	
August	11,435,600	9,641,600	
September	13,715,250	10,852,550	
October	12,267,000	13,872,450	*
November	16,178,200	16,248,350	
December	15,276,600	19,001,450	
Total, 12 months	\$175.193 800	\$459 710 000	

There were during the month 349 fires where the loss reached or exceeded \$10,000 in each instance. The losses of 1907 have been heavier than normal, and it is clear that the fire underwriters generally have not had a profitable experience so far.

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 1907.

WESTERN BANKING DEVELOPMENT

The special financial number issued by the Manitoba Free Press on the 16th May is brimful of useful information, a great deal of which would have remained inaccessible to the ordinary reader, but for the time and labor spent by the big Winnipeg newspaper in collecting and tabulating its facts. From the figures set out, it is possible to get a very comprehensive view, for one thing, of the branch bank extension movement in the western part of the Dominion, and a short study of the situation's development will be well worth while. The first table shows the growth of the connections in the West of all the banks now represented there. The figures are taken from two of the tables given by the Free Press.

Total	Branches	

Opened in Winnipeg.	In West, 1500.	In Man. & N W T, 1904.	In 3 Provin- ces, 1906.	In West, 1907.	In all Can- ada, 31st Dec., 1906.	p. c. of Branches in West.
Merchants 1873	9	21	35	40	117	34
Montreal 1876	10	11	15	15	129	12
Imperial 1881	10	ii	17	27	61	44
Ottawa	5	7	ii	13	60	22
Union, Can1882	26	54	86	86	130	66
British 1886	8	9	15	25	54	46
Molsons1891	6	2	3	5	60	8
Hochelaga1892	ĭ	ĩ	4	4	23	17
Commerce1893	ŕ	21	65	84	168	50
Hamilton1896	8	21	38	43	96	45
Dominion1897	2	7	12	13	50	26
Nova Scotia 1899	ĩ	6	4	5	64	8
Fast. Townships1903	2	ĭ	3	6	59	10
Toronto1905	2	Nil	10	11	70	16
Traders1905	_	46	6	8	73	11
Northern1905	••	"	43	47	47	100
Powel 1966	• •					
Royal1966	••	"	10	23	80	29
Home1906	• •		••	2	12	16
	97	172	377	457	1,353	34

Six years ago perhaps, one-tenth of the banking offices in Canada were located in the West; to-day a little over one-third of the total number are placed out there. In percentage of branches in West to total the newly organized Northern Bank leads with 100; the Union Bank of Canada is second with 66. But of course, it does not necessarily follow when a bank shows 50 per cent. of its branches as

located in the West, that 50 per cent. of its business is transacted there. The business done in the Montreal and Toronto branches of the important banks would over-balance the combined total of a good many of their other offices.

In the next table are grouped some figures which should give some idea as to amount of business available for the increased number of bank branches.

		ı	nhabi-
			tants
		No.	Per
Place.	Population.	Banks	Bank.
Winnipeg	100,000	41	2,400
Edmonton		13	890
Calgary	15,000	12	1,250
Brandon	10,409	9	1,150
Moosejaw	6,250	6	1,040
Regina	6,217	8	770
St Boniface	5,119	3	1,700
Portage-la-Prairie	5,106	6	850
Saskatoon	5,000	6	830
Neepawa	2,000	3	660
Port Arthur	10,206	4	2,550
Fort William	10,032	8	1,250
Dauphin	2,000	3	660
Prince Albert	4,000	4	1,000
Indian Head		3	620
Red Deer		4	380
Weyburn	1,350	3	450
Kenora	6,500	3	2,160
Carberry		3	460
Moosomin	1,400	3	460
North Battleford	1,000	3	330
McLeod	1,400	3	460
Wolseley	1,000	3	330
Shoal Lake	650	3	210
Oxbow	580	3	190
Carman	1.755	3	580
Lethbridge		3	1,100

These 27 towns account for practically one-third the banking offices in the West. Outside of them there are quite a number of places with two banking offices and a great many with a single office.

The statistics of manufactures issued last week by the government throws some light on the matter of the increased business available for the banks in the West. Taking all Canada the value of manufactured products increased from \$418.053.375 to \$712.664.835 in the five years 1901 to 1906. All the sections west of Lake Superior show a rate of increase superior to that shown by the whole Dominion.

VALUE OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS.

	1901.	1906.
British Columbia	\$19,447,778	\$38,013,515
Manitoba	12,924,439	27,609,268
The Territories	1.964.987	7,594,600

But, important as is the increase in manufactures, it does not come anywhere near being equal to the immigration factor as a provider of new business for the banks. The body of the business done by most of the banking offices comes directly and indirectly from the farmers; and out West they use the banks a great deal more than they do in the East.

Criticism of the rapid extension of branch banks in recent years has been levelled more at what has taken place in the East. It is generally conceded that a reasonable increase in Western banking facilities was called for.

Some additional figures taken from the Free Press help to illustrate the rapidity of the development.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

													1901.	1906.
Winnipeg .							,			,			\$6,139,525	\$17,875,088
Brandon													341,656	1,118,247
Calgary	×		 ï										2.307.676	-,,
Lethbridge													669,509	1.301.096
Port Arthu	r												588,124	5.798.042
Kenora													20,381	365,643

The fire insurance premiums paid in Manitoba have increased from \$752,775 in 1901 to \$1,823,790 in 1906. In bank clearings, Winnipeg, Vancouver, and Calgary have all increased at a very rapid ratio.

It is easy to see, by studying the addresses and remarks made at bank annual meetings in recent years, that the West has thrown out a glamorous attraction for the financial institutions of the East. One after the other the banks that were not represented out there have entered the field, and once they entered Winnipeg they caught the fever and extended into the tributary country. And the officers of other institutions which have not yet taken the step, have, on more than one occasion, thought it well to explain to their shareholders, in annual meeting assembled, why they have not done so.

A glance at the list of western branches shows that the bulk of them have been established by strong banks with a long experience behind them. This feature it is that imparts strength and confidence in the situation.

THE RESULTS OF CANADIAN FIRE INSURANCE FOR 1906.

We have at length received the Dominion Superintendent's Abstract of the Insurance Companies' Statements for the past year. This has been later in coming to hand than usual, owing, no doubt, to the investigation into the affairs of the Canadian life insurance companies. With regard to fire insurance we find the following showing as compared with that of 1905.

Canadian Co's	672,298,145	Net Premiums \$ 3,193.470 8,601,960 2,916,600
1906	\$1,207,045,358	\$14,712,030
1905	1,140,095,372	14, 285,671
Increase	\$66,949,986	\$426,359

The premium increase does not show the growth that it has done in former years, but this is accounted for by the reduction in the average rate charged.

This has fallen from \$1.60 at which it stood during 1904 and 1905 to \$1.53 in 1906. This hardly bears out the complaint so frequently made that the insurance companies are always increasing rates. The reduction is doubtless owing to the increasing numbers of a superior class of buildings which have lately been, and are being, erected; as well as to improvements made in existing structures. This is confirmed when we observe that the increase in premium income of 1906 over that of 1905, when applied to the increased amount written in the former as compared with the latter year, would give only an average rate of about 60 cents per cent.

The year under review may be considered as satisfactory to the companies, the average loss ratio being 44.58 per cent. as compared with 42 per cent. for 1905. This has again had the effect of reducing the high loss ratio that ruled when calculated over a number of years, the figures for 38 years being now as follows: Premiums from 1869 to 1906 inclusive \$230,572,347; losses from 1869 to 1906 inclusive \$152,868,409. The loss ratio has thus been over 66.3 per cent., which with 30 per cent, for expenses leaves something more than 3 per cent. on the right side. This is not much and might easily be upset by a bad year or two; it is the best answer to those who are continually complaining that extortionate rates are charged by the companies.

It is too soon to judge of the business for the present year, but so far it is not by any means as satisfactory as that of the two former years. Property owners and insurers may rest assured that the only way to obtain lower rates is by reducing the fire waste. This can be done only by attending to the rules and instructions laid down by the underwriters as regards construction of buildings, fire protection and so forth; rates being based necessarily upon the hazard incurred. While upon this subject we would remark that we fully concur in a recent report made by experts upon Montreal, respecting the danger of overhead wires for lights and other purposes. Not only are these a constant menace to life, but they preclude our firemen. with our narrow streets, from handling a blaze with the speed so essential to the checking of its progress. Ladders can be raised but slowly and with difficulty under present conditions, and the men are seriously hampered in climbing up or down a building. If all wires were placed under ground, we are convinced that many fires which verge upon conflagrations could be extinguished with comparatively little damage. Remove the hazard and rates will fall.

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLI-TICAL SCIENCE (University of London) this year. for the first time, held examinations on insurance subjects.

Fire Insurance Business in Canada for the Year 1906. With Comparative Results for the Years 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904 and 1905

P. C. P. C		Per c	ent. of 1	Losses in	curred t	o Premi	ume	BUSINES	S OF 1905	BUSINES	150 E	
Agadia Anglo American	COMPANIES	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904 & 1905 (combined.)	received for		received for	Net Losses incurred.	P.C. Losses incurred to Premiums, 1906
Anglo-American		р. с.	р. с.	р. с.	р. с.	р. с.	*	\$	\$	*	\$	p. c. 28.9
Briesh America 22.9 7 22.95 50.2-5 36.4 57.2-5 56.4 21.9.2 76.555 513.1.27 276.557 50.2 Canadian 22.9 7 2.95 50.2-5 36.4 57.2-5 56.4 21.9.2 76.555 513.1.27 276.557 51.0.2 72 14.38 10.5.2 51.0.2 50.4 57.2 50.4 57.2 50.4 57.2 50.4 57.2 50.4 57.2 50.4 57.2 50.4 57.2 50.4 57.2 50.4 57.2 57.2 57.2 57.2 57.2 57.2 57.2 57.2	Angle American			10 10	.::.:	.:: . :.		46,136	11,743	76,809	22,251	65.1
Canadian	Reinsh America	12 6						286,564	169,640	513 197	976 557	53.9
Lionism Mutual	Canadian	22.9			36.4			218.917		241.438	105.825	43.8
Löndom Mutual 65.3 57.16 54.88 47.7 55.7 68.7 488,212 262,320 426,825 261,202 6 Manitoba	Equity				43.2			182.851	96,502		93,991	47.0
Manitoba.	London Mutual	65.3	57.15					458,212	262,320		261,202	61.
Mercantile 43, 6 81,08 47,85 38,88 44,3 74,00 96,861 26,299 121,277 28,395 2.0 Ottawn 42,38 66,42 49,2 46,6 88,3 175,239 101,676 187,662 93,305 48,305 93,464 68,61 88,3 175,239 101,676 187,662 93,05 48,055 93,05 48,056 48,38 18,18 78,7 126,742 51,327 124,079 98,305 48,056 68,74 59,11 88,005 124,079 98,305 48,356 68,74 59,11 88,706 66,66 41,3 34,5 78,7 126,742 51,327 124,079 98,305 48,305 81,11 83,5641 59,11 88,706 68,744 81,11 83,20 86,66 48,5 78,7 71,44 588,122 259,892 469,00 20,401 86,71 83,41 1,468,076 31,41,40 48,60 81,41 48,60 81,41 48,41 48,41 48,41 49,41	Manitoba						36.9	99,219	36,642	125,293	61,573	49.
Montreal Canada. Montreal Canada. 42 28 66.42 49.2 64.6 88.3 175.239 101.676 187.662 92.305 484.335 193.446 50 60.0000 60.000 60.00000 60.00000 60.00000 60.00000 60.0000000000	Nova Scotia								9,558	35,481	9,217	26.
Ottawa 42 38 65.42 49.2 64.6 88.3 175.239 101,676 187,662 92,305 48.6 88.3 175.239 101,676 187,662 92,305 48.6 88.3 175.239 101,676 187,662 92,305 48.6 88.3 175.239 101,676 187,662 92,305 48.6 88.3 175.239 101,676 179 187,662 179,968,674 58.7 126,742 51.3 1	Mercantile	43.6	81.08	47.85	38.8	44.3			26,299		28,395	23. 56.
Quebes 102.9 113.31 73.15 38.8 38.1 78.7 126,742 81,327 124,079 66,674 55,911 18 Sovereign 35,641 5,911 18 55,911 18 55,661 1,018 227,560 1,018 227,511 3,013,11 1,468,076 3,034 3,019 21,211 21,202 24,211 21,202 24,211 21,202 24,211 21,203 24,211	Montreal Canada		******	.:::::				231,025			193,446	49.
Richmond and Drummond. 35,641 5,911 1 eVictoria Mutual. 30.4 236,45 6.66 41.3 44.5 74.4 588,122 259,892 469,502 267,401 5 Totals 53.2 89.70 66.66 41.3 44.5 74.4 588,122 259,892 469,502 267,401 5 Totals 53.2 88.25 58.22 42.5 53.2 71.7 3,013,714 1,468,076 3,193,470 1,633,641 5 Allance 44.8 117.42 122.17 10.43 47.9 49.5 94.1 395,116 230,401 397,120 192,065 4 Caledonian 49.1 124.17 90.00 42.5 46.9 85.7 313,320 152,201 312,452 134,590 4 19.22 34.1 39.5 14.0 49.2 14.2 40.9 428,762 14.4 289,115 660,395 276,464 4 289,115 660,395 276,4	Onebac	109 0						175,239	51 297	124,002		55.
Sovereign	Richmond and Drummond			13.15	38.8			120,142				16.
Totals	Sovereign				••••)·•••			3.
Totals	eVictoria Mutual	30.4	236.45		•••••					21,000		••••
Totals	Western				41.3	44.5	74.4	588,122	259,892	469,502	267,401	57.
Allanee	Totale											61.
Atlas 60.2 102.71 60.43 47.9 49.5 94.1 395,116 230,401 397,120 192,065 4 Caledonan 49.1 124.17 90.00 42.5 46.9 85.7 313,320 152,201 312,942 134,690 43,690 4 25.7 53,81 152,201 312,942 244,34 207,243 3 60.0 72.7 53,213 229,222 548,442 207,243 3 60.5 67.0 554,461 289,115 603,695 276,469 4 4 4 4 18,73,81 33.1 60.0 60.5,695 276,469 4 28,73,81 8 7.0 60.0 8 7.8 45,3 35.7 66.6 1,086,199 428,762 1,139,347 554,666 4 200,000 42,93 35.0 61.6 1,086,199 428,762 1,139,347 554,666 4 200,000 42,97,600 441,000 441,000 441,000 441,000 441,000 441,000 4	British—	00.20	83.25	38.22	42.5	55.2		,	, , , , , ,			
Caledonan												35.
Commercial Union. 73.5 80.60 72.36 33.4 55.9 72.7 539,213 229,222 548,442 207,243 34 46 46 46 46 47 47 48 47 48 47 48 48									230,401			48.
Guardian	Caledonian											43.
clancashire 58.3 92.53 149.00	Commercial Union	73.5									207,243	37. 45.
clancashire 58.3 92.53 149.00	duardian	53.8						,				
Liverpool & London & Globe	dangaghire	59.5										
London & Lancashire. 46.9 88.39 55 30 45.3 47.4 88.6 322,394 141,044 369,001 141,208 3 London Assurance. 43.4 113.17 91.36 36.4 59.7 78.7 134,059 41,906 143,193 49,435 4 49,435 4 49,435 4 49,435 4 49,435 4 49,435 4 49,435 4 49,435 4 49,435 4 49,435 4 49,4	Livernool & London & Globe	79 9				20 5	61.6	1.086 199	428 769	1.139.347	554 636	
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	London & Lancashire								141.044	369.001		
CManichester 64.2 140.01 94.29 37.6 48.5 48.5 48.61 48.6	London Assurance	42 4										
Northern 51.0 73.22 71.97 30.9 66.0 86.6 470.404 227.616 488.041 212,849 Abstrage of the property of the pro	cManchester	64.2								1		
Northern 51.0 73.22 71.97 30.9 66.0 86.6 470.404 227.616 488.041 212,849 Abstrage of the property of the pro	cNational of Ireland	60.3										
North British & Mercantile. 65 5 117.96 72.39 37.1 59.4 77.1 680,717 279,203 607,011 338,5051 60.0000	Northern	51.0	73.22	71.97	30.9	66.0			227,616			43.
Pheenix of London 52.1 78.51 66.32 34.4 46.6 53.8 925,110 324,495 859,755 396,207 4 Royal 59.2 83.18 56.76 42.3 49.1 79.9 1,226,570 494,673 1,157,449 616,258 5 Scottish U. & N. 54.0 65.00 65.11 66.8 45.6 108.1 268,177 100,416 274,780 84,110 3 Sun 70.8 89.24 69.89 46.4 51.1 80.4 313,880 158,813 351,305 166,959 4 10,000 236,998 469,000 286,002 6 Law Union & Crown 13.1 73.49 63.07 28.5 65.1 61.0 123,828 32,104 125,833 53,116 4 Totals 58.80 97.99 74.15 41.7 51.0 76.2 8,582,925 3,695,609 8,601,960 3,994,703 4 American 18.4 87.30 75.86 53.1	North British & Mercantile	65 5						680,717	279,203	607,011	338,505	55.
Royal 59.2 83.18 56.76 42.3 49.1 79.9 1,226,570 494,673 1,157,449 616,258 5 Sottish U. & N. 54.0 65.0 65.11 66.8 45.6 108.1 268,177 100,416 274,780 84,110 33 Sun 70.8 89.24 69.89 46.4 51.1 80.4 313,880 158,813 351,305 166,959 48,4110 33 Union 59.3 122.74 83.87 32.1 36.8 64.0 539,750 236,898 469,000 286,002 6 40.0 123,828 32,104 125,833 53,116 4 Totals 58.80 97.99 74.15 41.7 51.0 76.2 8,582,925 3,695,509 8,601,960 3,994,703 4 American 63.7 165.23 75.38 45.5 53.1 71.6 255,163 86,938 234,767 75,869 3 48.11 48.1 43.0 48.11 48.1 48.1 </td <td>Norwich Union</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>535,615</td> <td>237,101</td> <td>534,410</td> <td>240,504</td> <td>45.</td>	Norwich Union							535,615	237,101	534,410	240,504	45.
Sun	Phoenix of London	52.1							324,495	809,755	390,207	45. 53.
Sun	Scottish II & N	59.2							1 494,673	974 780	616,208	
Union	Sun	70.0	80.00	60.11				212 890	159 913	351 305	166 969	
Law Union & Crown 13.1 73.49 63.07 28.5 65.1 61.0 123,828 32,104 125,833 63,116 4 Totals 58.80 97.99 74.15 41.7 51.0 76.2 8,582,925 3,695,509 8,601,960 3,994,703 4 Eina 63.7 165.23 75.38 45.5 53.1 71.6 255,163 86,938 234,767 75,869 3 American 18.4 87.30 73.0 78.0 95,886 17,049 124,172 337,983 33,983 33,983 33,983 33,983 33,983 33,983 33,983 34,995 160,288 50,596 50,596 66,054 42,995 160,288 50,596 50,696 34,940 19,1315 606,054 260,034 48 180,343 19,315 606,054 260,034 48 180,343 133,037 8 18,2482 159,196 345,343 133,037 8 18,340,0 96,1 328,482 159,196 <			122 74	83 87				539.750	236.896	459.000	286.002	62.
Totals 58.80 97.99 74.15 41.7 51.0 76.2 8,582,925 3,695,509 8,601,960 3,994,703 4 American	Law Union & Crown							123.828	32,104	125,833		1
Merican												-
Æina 63 7 165.23 75.38 46.5 53.1 71.6 255,163 86,938 234,767 75,869 3 cAmerican 18.4 87.30 73.6 78.0 95,886 17,049 124,172 33,983 33,983 33,99 139,126 42,995 160,258 50,596 50,596 64,366 33.2 40.8 58.2 545,981 191,315 606,054 260,034 40.0 96.1 328,482 159,196 345,343 133,937 133,937 132,91 68.66 37.6 40.0 97.3.6 290,547 91,488 299,459 127,902 127,902 127,902 127,902 127,902 127,902 127,902 127,902 117,285 296,444 96,004 296,044 96,004 296,044 96,004 274,999 117,285 296,444 96,004 276,004 137,003 48,004 48,004 180,034 57,764 38,105 48,004 48,004 48,004 180,034 48,004 48,004 48,004		58.80	97.99	74.15	41.7	51.0	76.2	8,582,925	3,695,509	8,601,960	3,994,703	46.
Connecticut 60.1 74.12 80.68 33.9 73.6 78.0 95,886 17,049 124,172 37,983 36,966 33.9 139,126 42,995 160,258 50,596 56,596 56,296 54,31 191,315 606,054 260,034 48 58.2 545,981 191,315 606,054 260,034 48 183,340.0 961,328,482 159,196 345,343 133,037 318 33,34 73.0 78.6 290,547 91,488 299,459 127,302 4 24 200,547 91,488 299,459 127,302 4 24 24 24 96,044 33,105 38,185 39,185 </td <td>Ætna</td> <td></td> <td>165.23</td> <td>75.38</td> <td>45.5</td> <td>53.1</td> <td>71.6</td> <td>255,163</td> <td>86,938</td> <td>234,767</td> <td>75,869</td> <td>32.</td>	Ætna		165.23	75.38	45.5	53.1	71.6	255,163	86,938	234,767	75,869	32.
German American. 52 1 130.64 63.66 33.2 40.8 58.2 545,981 191,315 606,054 260,034 Home 8.3 40.0 96.1 328,482 159,196 345,343 133,037 Insurance Co. of N. America. 54.3 123.91 68.66 37.6 40.0 73.6 290,547 91,488 299,459 127,902 4 Lumber Insurance Co of N. Y. Phenix of Brooklyn 55.5 59.39 65.62 33.0 38.7 69.7 274,999 117,285 296,444 96,004 Phemix of Brooklyn 78.50 64.88 33.3 47.9 64.8 178,656 82,046 180,034 57.764 3 Queen 55.0 80.42 56.97 47.5 52.3 69.8 579,064 237,715 575,739 283,421 4 Rochester-German 1,128 55,145 16,634 2 55,145 16,634 2			87.30									****
Hartford 52 1 30.64 63.66 33.2 40.8 58.2 545,981 191,315 606,054 260,034 40.0 96.1 328,482 159,196 345,331 123,91 68.66 37.6 40.0 73.6 290,547 91,488 299,459 127,902 42.0 40.0 73.6 78.50 64.88 33.3 47.9 64.8 178,656 82,046 180,034 57.764 30.0 40.0 73.0 78.50 64.88 33.3 47.9 64.8 178,656 82,046 180,034 57.764 30.0 40.0 73.0 78.50 64.88 33.3 47.9 64.8 178,656 82,046 180,034 57.764 30.0 40.0 40.0 40.0 40.0 40.0 40.0 40.	Connecticut	60.1	74.12	80.68	33.9	73.6						30.
Home 8.3 40.0 96.1 328,482 159,196 345,343 123,037 Issurance Co. of N. America 54.3 123.91 68.66 37.6 40.0 73.6 290,547 91,488 299,469 127,902 4 Lumber Insurance Co of N. Y. Phenix of Brooklyn 55.5 59.39 65.62 33.0 38.7 69.7 274,999 117,285 296,444 96,004 39,105 296,547 91,488 178,656 82,046 180,034 57,764 30,004 3			120 24						42,990	160,258	00,096	31.
Insurance Co. of N. America 54.3 123.9 68.66 37.6 40.0 73.6 299,547 91,488 299,459 127,902 42,500 42,500 40.0 73.6 290,547 91,488 299,459 127,902 42,500 42			130.64	63.66				998 499	150 100	245 343		
Lumber Insurance Co of N. Y. 39,185 39,105 9 Phenix of Brooklyn 55.5 59.39 65.62 33.0 38.7 69.7 274.999 117,285 296,444 96,004 37.0 78.50 64.88 33.3 47.9 64.8 178,656 82,046 180,034 57.764 32.0 Queen 55.0 80.42 56.97 47.5 52.3 69.8 579,064 237,715 575,739 283,421 Rochester-German 1,128 55,145 16,034 32.0			193 91	63 66					91.48	299 459		
Phenix of Brooklyn 55.5 59.39 65.62 33.0 38.7 69.7 274,999 117,285 296,444 96,004 32,004 33.0 38.7 69.7 274,999 117,285 296,444 96,004 35.7 64.8 178,656 82,046 180,034 57,764 32,046 36,034 57,764 32,046 36,034 <td></td> <td></td> <td>120.01</td> <td>00.00</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td>10.0</td> <td>250,04</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>			120.01	00.00	1		10.0	250,04				
Phenix, Hartford. 73.0 78.50 64.88 33.3 47.9 64.8 178,656 82,046 180,034 57.764 3 Queen. 55.0 80.42 56.97 47.5 52.3 69.8 579,064 237,715 575,739 283,421 Rochester-German 1,128 55,145 16,034 2	Phenix of Brooklyn		59.39	65.62			69.	274,999	117,286			
Queen 55.0 80.42 56.97 47.5 52.3 69 8 579.064 237,715 575,739 283,421 4 Rochester-German 1,128 55,145 16,034 2			78.50			47.9			82,046	180,034		
Rochester-German	Queen	55.0	80.42				69 8	579,064	237,715	575,739	283,421	49
	Rochester-German							1,128		55,145	16,034	29
Totals	Totals	57.25	107.17	66.83	38.7	48.0	70.3	2,689,032	1.022.027	2,916,600	1,176,749	. 40
RECAPITULATION				Ì	1	1						
Canadian Offices	anadian Offices	53 90	83.9	58 99	42.5	53.9	71.7		1			
British Offices 58.80 97.99 74.15 41.7 51.0 76.2	British Offices	58.80							1			1
American Offices 57, 25(107, 17, 66, 83, 38, 7, 48, 0, 70, 3	American Offices								1			
						-	10.0	-			1	
Totals 57.75 97.00 70.29 40 54 50.9 74.2	Totals	57.75	97.00	70.29	40 5	50.9	74.2					

GENERAL RECAPITULATION FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS OF FIRE INSURANCE BUSINESS.

Years.		Premiums.	Losses.	Per ct.	Yes	ars.	Premiums.	Losses.	Per	ct.
Business of	1890	\$5,836,071	3,399,368	58 25	Business of	f 1898	\$7,350,131	\$5,395,898	74	37
"	1891		3,952,611	63 91	"	1899	7,910,492	4,552,161	57	75
**	1892		4,470,238	68 64	"	1900	8,331,948	8,078,931	97	00
**	1893		5,113,905	75 55	**	1901	9,650,348	6,783,617	70	29
**	1894		4,612,019	68 69	"	1902	10,577,084	4,288,562	40	54
**	1895		4,812,764	69 31	**	1903	11,384,762	5,799,279	50	94
**	1896		4,338,506	61 31		1904		14,191,847	107	76
**	1897		4,609,997	64 41		1905		6,185,612	43	30
		.,,	.,,			1906	14,712,030	6,805,093	46	26

DOMINION LIFE INSURANCE ABSTRACT FOR 1906.

Delayed somewhat on account of extra work involved by the Royal Commission, the Government Abstract of Life Insurance Companies' Statements for 1906 is now available. In its issue of February 22nd, The Chronicle published a preliminary compilation from advance figures supplied by the companies. That this differed only slightly from the official statement now to hand, is evident from a comparison of totals. For example, the Government return now shows the amount of new insurance taken up in the Dominion by the Canadian Companies during 1906, to have been \$62,699,343. The amount given in the February estimate was \$63,063,545 which was within about \$360,000 of the officially stated total. When the earlier compilation was made, however, figures were not available from two of the smaller offices. Allowance being made for these, it now appears that the companies were, among them, a trifle over-sanguine as to their net new business showing, and estimated it at about \$900,000 greater than the Insurance Department subsequently gives them credit for. This makes the year's showing for Canadian new business, written by the home companies, less than that of 1905 by \$4,839.798-while 1905, on the other hand, showed an increase over the preceding year that amouted to \$8,488,028.

The gain of insurance in force for Canada in home companies was \$23,635,076, this was nearly \$10,000,000 less than the increase experienced during the year 1905-the unfavorable showing being due even more to increased lapses than to decreased new business. Total terminations during 1906 amounted to \$45,353,122 as against \$40,-531,471 in 1905, a difference of nearly \$5,000,-000. Examining these in detail, the columns showing terminations by death, maturity, expiry, change and not taken, all show more or less improvement for the year 1906. But the combined totals of surrenders and lapses for last year amount to \$32,532,687 as against \$26,671,755 for 1905-an unfavorable difference of \$5.860,932. That this is not accounted for by the increase of business liable to lapsation is evident from the fact that in 1904, lapses and surrenders totalled \$22,929,264, while in 1903 they were \$20,676,884, and in 1902, \$17,671,752, so that the increases for 1903, 1904, 1905 and 1906 were respectively \$3,005,132, \$2,252,380, \$3,742,491 and \$5,860,932. At best then the lapses and surrenders during 1906 seem to have been over \$1,500,-000 more than would ordinarily be expected, and this can be accounted for only by the unrest growing out of investigation in the United States and Canada. Putting it conservatively, there was about \$13,500,000 less insurance at the end of 1906 carried by Canadian companies for the protection of Canadian policy-holders and beneficiaries than there

would have been under normal conditions. Instead of a new business increase of about \$7,000,000 or over, as might be looked for from the record of previous years, there was a decrease of close on to \$5,000,000; to this \$12,000,000 is to be added the \$1.500,000 of abnormal lapsation, bringing the adverse effects of the year's agitation up to a total of \$13,500,000. That this estimate is approximately correct may be judged by considering the growth of net insurance in force during preceding years. Up to 1906, each recent year's increase was greater than that of the previous year, and it is well within bounds to estimate that last year's increase would ordinarily have been about \$4,000,000 greater than that for 1905. As this would have made an increase of say, \$37,306,736 instead of the actual year's increase of \$23,635,076, it again appears that the business in force at the close of December last was probably well over \$13,500,000 less than it would otherwise have been.

American companies, whose new business in Canada in 1905 was less by \$1,658,996 than that for 1904, showed the far greater decrease of \$6,392,731 during 1906. British companies alone increased their new business record, and that but slightly—their growth in this respect being somewhat over a half million dollars for the year, as against an increase during 1905 of about three-quarters of a million.

All along the line, therefore, there has been an interrupting of life insurance activity, and a deprivation of insurance protection that must already have fallen heavily upon hundreds of families throughout the Dominion. That there have been discovered in Canada, life insurace abuses grave enough to account for so serious a falling off, is not seriously charged by anyone—though sensational journalism on the part of a newspaper here and there has sought to arouse doubt regarding the essential soundness of the business as conducted in this county. But already public opinion is sanely realizing that a mistake here and there, or an occasional error in management, is no reason for impugning the worth and overlooking the necessity of a business which must always rank as one of the most important of the world's "instruments of civilization." Until definite Parliamentary action is taken upon the commission's report, there will doubtless remain some unrest in life insurance affairs. But this is already limiting itself to the "doubting Thomas" type, and the year 1907 bids fair to prove more successful than 1906.

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THE ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY'S new office building in New York is a fire-proof structure, sixteen storeys high—handsome and up to date in every particular.

Abstract of Life Insurance in Canada for the Year 1906.

	Dite ii	Surai			aua I	Num-	Vat 1	Claims	Vegettled	Claims
<u> </u>	Premiums for	Number of Policies	Amount of Policies	Number of Policies	Net Amount in	Poli-	Net Amount of Policies	Paid (in- cluding Matured	Unsettled Not	Ciaims
	year.	New and Taken up.	New and Taken up.	in Force at Date.	Force.	cies be-	Claims.	Endow- ments.)	Res sted	Resisted
Canadian Companies.	\$ 270		\$	0.1	\$. *	None.	None.	None.
Annuity Company of Canada anada (Canadian business)	370 2,353,413	$\frac{24}{203}$	5,005,298	40,089	81,616,762	None. 629	None. 1,413,676	1,423,770	174,246	None.
entral	16,252	358	281,300	631	534 550	3	2,500	2,225	None.	None.
onfederation (Canadian business)	1,390,647	2,719	4,420,497	28,237	41,664,490	422 25	644,462 28,470	612,038 23,119	75,626 8 000	20,00 None.
ontinental	153,879 150,704	919 723	1,105,475 $1,240,861$	4,076 2,487	4,689,722 3,890,390		17,000	15,267	6,000	None.
ominion	213,432	779	1,180,420	4,985	6,670.082	38	43,575	41,957	3,400	None.
Axcelsior. Ordinary	298,013	1,646	2,439,684	7,894	9,860,309		41,013 1,491	37,320 1,365	11,236 126	None.
ederal	5,148 604,360	$\frac{173}{1,946}$	19 826 2,786,263	12,590	109,844 $17,433,074$	13 89	166,119	168,205	29,500	2,00
reat West (Canadian business)	893,327	3,525	6,181,880	18,137	27,759,460	105	166,707	144,160	26,500	10,00 None
lome	197,093 681,464	632	882.250	4,434	5,396,100		30,55¢ 67,680	$\frac{34,542}{65,119}$	6,000 8,500	2,00
mperial (Canadian business)	172,434	1,363 1,705	2,285,241 1,968,721	10,019 5,474	16,995 130 5,405,215		44,752	43,291	8,831	None
ondon { Ordinary	263,764	18,651	1,430,576	60,551	4,971,199	783	63,608	63,995	None.	None
lanufacturers (Can. business)	1,179,736	2,642	4,336,618	25,609	34,577,501	176 None	245,823	242,681 None	26,×55 None	None
Jonarch Jutual of Canada (Can. bus.)	2,101 $1,592,306$	$\frac{75}{2,808}$	113,793 4,904,701	30,793	110,293 46,241,083		None. 499,175	496,462	46,683	None
ational of Canada	173,595	814	1.618,590	3,588	5,470,105		16,500	17,691	3,000	None
orth American (Can. business).	1,244,003	1,746	2,661,336	24,199	34,060,941	203	296,937	309,470 23,281	30,197 2,000	5,00 None
tortherntoyal Victoria	$158,900 \\ 144,472$	869 622	1,141,740 779,025	4,107 3,532	4,947.724 4,421,072		$\frac{24,800}{39,000}$	42,451	2,500	None
overeign	91,729	324	700,748	1,008	2,056,411		6,300	4,300	3,000	None
ubsidiary High Court of the An-							2.000	5,000	1,000	None
cient Order of Foresters	26,504 $1,795,169$	284 4,625	278,906	1,344	1,234,350		6,000 $643,814$	656,331	69,858	1,00
un (Can. bus.) General	51,829	920	6,740,203 117,500	35,262 8,446	50,835,525 1,132,519		13,294	11,781	200	None
	36,249	1,078	870,610	1,767	1,377,172		3 500	2,8.0	3,454	None
Industrial	201,869	49,147	7,197,293	55,576	8,120,955	480	31,504	29,498	2,359	10.1
Totals for 1906	14,092,762	103,320	62,699,343	395,828	421,581,978		4 558,250		549,071 $513,841$	33,6
" 1905 Increase, i; decrease, d	13,947,827	92,557	$\frac{67,539,141}{d\ 4,839,798}$		$\frac{397,946,902}{i\ 23,635,076}$		4,685,413 a 127,163			-
British Companies.	22,720	10	71,000	215	689,731	13	27,492	28,832	1,356	
Edinburgh	1,752	None.	None.	54	108,914	2	2,109		None.	None
Life Association of Scotland	21,120	None.	None.	530	1,105,167		89,323	84,673 9,180	16,642 3,141	None
Liverpool and London and Globe London and Lancashire	4,004 374,050	None. 560	None. 1,363,518	6,360	153,708 $10,803,878$		$12,322 \\ 242,272$	238,165	33,651	5,0
London Assurance	626	None.	None.	5	20,193		None.	None.	None.	None
North British	14,284	11	27,500	310	792,983	15	65,258	62,299 1,196	2,959 None.	None
Norwich Union	2,887 202,912	None. 95	None. 486,500	130 2,338	153,517 5.924,155		1,196 200,358	198,935	34,198	
Pelican and British Empire	54,390	189	363,463	703	1,667,653	1	27,733	39,946	4,951	Non
Scottish Amicable	3,049	None.	None.	63	172,763		13,552		None. None.	Non
Scottish Provident	926 864,986	None.	None. 2 122,745	35 11,824	98,465 23,534,849		1,515 568,077	1,515 570,363		
tar	16,155	1,072 25	37,700	256	432,867		4,715		3,000	
Totals for 1906	1,583,861	1 962	4,472,426	22,914	45,658,843	- regional de l'étre (1,255,922		147,962	
" 1905	1,500,232	1,952	3,881,980	22.424	43,809.211	515			171,995	
Increase, i; decrease, d	i 83,529	i 10	i 590,446	i 490	1,849,632	i 42	i 67,398	i 46,786	d 24,033	5,0
American Companies.	668,190	806	1,498,104	12,334	17,680,009	587	636,071	615,327	34,366	Non
EtnaConnecticut Mutual	17,352		None.	674	1,195,674		67,401	66,761	5,890	Non
equitable	752,085	576	1,287,750	10,714	21,435,308				7,066	
iermania	6,213	20	50,702	120	202,13		10 669			Non
detropolitan General	497,094 1,033,320	5,231 81,533	4,105,467 $11,229,109$	14,715 252,335	12,000,020 30,355,748					Non
lutual of New York	1,033,320			15,529	29,984,71	261	668,363	650,782	49,726	Non
lutual Reserve	162,105	54	133,000	2,044	3,919,143	2 50	96,125	81,412	61,809	
National	560		588			0 6 4 291				
New York North-western Mutual	1,619,156 4,374		4,905,935 None.	184	217,80					
Phœnix Mutual	15,464		2,370				13,961	13,961		Nor
rovident Savings	154,141	401			4,497,27				4,000 None.	Not Not
late	49,687							None. 149,887		
ravelers	350,488 245,367									
Juited States	55,392					0 10	24,350	22,478	Married Street, Square, Square	
Totals for 1906	6,702,107							3,053,346		
" 1905			34,486,215		188,578,12 i 1,161,97	and the second	$\frac{6}{10} \frac{3,159,19}{92,689}$	3 3,086,069 a 32,723		
Increase, i; decrease, d	i 69,449	d 1,528		TULATIO		0.1 100	74 02,00		10,011	
		104 290	62,699,343		421,581,97	81 4 12	9. 4 558 95	01 4.518,11	9 549,07	1 40.
enadian Companies		1 103.321	04,000,01							
Canadian Companies	14,092,762		4,472,426	22,905	45,658,84	3 55	7 1,255,92	2 1,254.23	0 147,36	
Canadian Companies British American "	1,583,861	1,962	4,472,426 28,093,486		45,658,84 189,740,10	2 4,62	1 3 066,50	2 1,254,23 4 3,053,34	6 260,28	
British "	1,583,861 6,702,103	$ \begin{array}{r} 1,962 \\ 93,705 \\ \hline 198,987 \end{array} $	28,093,484 95,265,253	349,315 768,048		2 4,62 3 9,31	1 3 066,50 7 8 880,67	$ \begin{array}{c cccc} 2 & 1,254,23 \\ 4 & 3,053,34 \\ \hline 6 & 8,825,69 \\ 0 & 8,753,84 \end{array} $	$\frac{6}{5} = \frac{260,28}{957,32}$	$\frac{9}{2}$ 45,

These companies have ceased doing new business in Canada.
This company issued, during the year, 24 deferred annuity contracts, providing for annual payments in all of \$4.700.

THE GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT PROBLEM. Some Suggestions As To Its Solution.

The Herald publishes an interview upon the gas and electric light question, wherein is suggested a basis of agreement between the city and the Montreal Light Heat & Power Company which is in effect an elaboration of the suggestion frequently made in The Chronicle upon this subject. In its essential features the proposition is that the city and the company should enter into a limited partnership which would be in the interests alike of the company, of the citizens of Montreal generally, and of the gas and electric light consumers in particular. In discussing this important question, it is absolutely necessary to remember that all these three parties have rights and interests in the matter which are entitled to, and are morally and legally bound to get due consideration. It is also well to bear in mind that each of the parties is in a position to contribute something of value to the proposed partnership. The company needs fixity of tenure in its rights and privileges; freedom from wasteful competition; and freedom from the periodic expense in connection with legislation and otherwise at the end of each contract. These advantages the people of Montreal as tax-payers or as consumers are in a position to give. The consumers need substantial reductions in their bills for gas and electricity; and these the company can well give. The citizens of Montreal need and are entitled to get compensation for the valuable privileges and immunities they are able to confer upon or to confirm in the company. Nothing is to be gained by looking at the subject from the point of view of any one alone of the interests concerned.

It is proposed that the city shall share in all the company's profits after paying fixed charges and interest, and five per cent. dividend to the shareholders. It has been contended that it is impossible for the company to distinguish between profits made inside and outside the city; the experience, however, of other companies in the same business shows that to make the distinction is a matter of very simple bookkeeping. It is also suggested that the contract should provide for a fixed annual minimum payment by the company to the city of, say, \$200,000 for the first five years, increasing periodically. The disposal of the city's share of the profits would be left to be dealt with by civic authority, and may be applied to the reduction of prices for gas and electricity. With the distribution of the company's share of the profits the city, of course, would have nothing to do, it could be utilised at the discretion of the directors.

In order to arrive at a speedy solution of the long-vexed problem, it is suggested that a commission should be appointed, consisting of, say, three aldermen, one representative of the Board of Trade,

one of the Chambre de Commerce, and one appointed by the banks. The Commission would have power to negotiate with the company on behalf of the city, and while it would, of course, be impossible for the City Council to delegate to such a body its powers of legislation or of making contracts, the influence of the commission would be so great that in all probability any agreement at which it might arrive with the company would be promptly ratified by the Council. One great advantage of the plan proposed is that it would solve other important civic problems besides that of the gas and electric light. For instance, the suggested minimum contribution to the city of \$200,000 per annum, if for twenty years capitalised at four per cent, would have a present value of about \$2,700,000. This will illustrate the amount that the city could realize for immediate use, if such an arrangement were entered into, and which could be used to put our streets and sidewalks into proper condition, without adding to the city's debt.

NEW YORK'S FIRE-PROOF BUILDINGS

Fire-proof Construction Causes Notable Reduction in Rates.

As a commentary upon the low rate of insurance on lofty office buildings, a prominent fire underwriter of New York is convinced that it will some day be an unburnable city.

To the New York Journal of Commerce this authority mentioned a building in the Wall Street district which carries the lowest rate possible under the schedules of the New York Fire Insurance Exchange. It is the Caledonian, in Pine street, and its net rate is only 5 cents per hundred dollars. The building has a cast iron frame, the members of which are protected by porous terra cotta and brick. It is twelve stories high.

A ten-story building in Broad street, not far from the New York Stock Exchange, has to pay twice as much or a net rate of 10 cents per hundred dollars, though it is two-stories lower than the Caledonian. Its metal frame is not protected by either terra cotta or brick, and that causes the difference in the rate. An official of the Fire Insurance Exchange says:

"I should estimate that fire-proof protection, that is terra cotta or brick, means a difference of fully 25 per cent. in the net rate of insurance on steel and iron buildings. Five cents is the lowest rate allowed in New York. More and more, modern buildings put up nowadays approach that minimum. Unquestionably this city is becoming safer from fire every day through the erection of buildings of protected iron and steel."

Another example of a very low rate due to modern fire-proofing methods is the Trinity build-

ing, No. 111 Broadway. Its great height, twentyone stories, which would ordinarily mean very costly insurance, is counterbalanced by the character of
construction, and the rate is-only 12 cents per
hundred dollars. Architects and engineers are considering as never before the isolation of each floor
from the others, the limiting of areas, the utmost
possible elimination of well holes, and the enclosing
of stairways.

THE SOVEREIGN BANK OF CANADA.

Only a body of shareholders imbued with a sense of duty to the general public, would so harmoniously have assented to the drastic measures adopted at the annual meeting of the Sovereign Bank held in Toronto on Tuesday of this week.

The action taken was confirmatory of the recommendation made by the president, Mr. Æmelius jarvis, and the recently appointed general manager, Mr. F. G. Jemmett-and it evidenced the strong confidence which is felt by the shareholders in the wisdom of the new management. The reorganization plan thus effected is on the side of extreme conservatism. Indeed, some surprise is expressed that the shareholders were not inclined to attempt weathering the storm without quite so thorough a stripping of canvas. But it is well that any possible erring in the matter should be upon the side of abundant security, and certain it is that pubuc confidence will now be attracted and held, to a degree that could not have been hoped for by the adoption of any temporizing policy or half way measures. And, doubtless, the stockholders themselves share with the public a sense of relief that the worst is known and passed. The basis of absolute safety upon which the bank's affairs now rest, together with the recognized ability and experience of the management, assure for it a successful future. The history of other banks in Canada has proved that financial institutions, like individuals, may make "stepping stones to higher things" or past misfortunes; and the shareholders of the Sovereign are to be congratulated that they have taken heroic measures whereby the bank has worked out its own salvation, rather than listen to any overtures regarding absorption.

The outline of the bank's history and of its recent condition and reorganization, as narrated with clearness and candour by the president and general manager, is given elsewhere in our columns. The Sovereign had undoubtedly a phenomenal growth; formed wide connections, obtained large deposits, and effected an extensive branen organization. But its career lends point to the moral that banking, above all things, must be conducted on an essentially conservative basis. Otherwise, at the very time when funds become most necessary they may prove

not available. The recommendations of the new management, as adopted by the shareholders, involve the following changes. There is written off for bad debts \$700,-655; for depreciation in securities \$150,607; and for reduction in bank premises and furniture. \$48,109. In addition to the foregoing, the sum of \$541,404 is being set aside in contingent fund for accounts which are in liquidation, or in which there is an element of doubt; and a further contingent fund of \$800,000 is provided in respect of certain unsatisfactory advances, the outcome of which is not clear at present. The doing of this necessitates appropriating

the entire rest fund of \$1,255,950, and also reducing the paid-up capital from \$4,000,000 to \$3,000,000 After this there remains \$25,252 to carry forward in the profit and loss account of the current year. Disappointing as the whole matter must be to the shareholders, there is comfort in knowing that the remedy while severe cannot but be wholly efficac-ious. There is a degree of comfort too in the expressed hope of so conservative a judge as Mr. Jemmett, that the securities held against some or all of the debts so amply provided for, may before long work into a better position, thus making possible the liquidation of the greater part of the debts against which they are held. If this should prove to be the case, the bank would be able to transfer from time to time a substantial portion of its contingent fund into a rest account. Mr. Jemmett sums up the immediate business outlook admirably when he says:

"We are now making a new start. We have paid-up capital of \$3,000,000, all of which is absolutely intact. We have deposits amounting to more than four times our capital. And in these, and in the excellent business connections at home and abroad which we have, we possess an extremely valuable asset."

Counting as it does among its shareholders, Messrs. Pierpont Morgan & Co., and the Dresdner Bank, who together hold 15,000 out of 40,000 shares, the Sovereign Bank is assured of the strongest backing. It is understood that Mr. Æmelius Jarvis as president will unstintedly devote his recognized ability and financial experience to the affairs of the bank. The record of Mr. F. G. Jemmett during his long connection with the Canadian Bank of Commerce and more especially as secretary to General Manager Walker of late years, is assurance of able and progressive work in the general managership of the Sovereign. And in this connection, the Canadian Bank of Commerce is to be complimented in its giving up to its younger rival, not only the valued services of Mr. Jemmett, but also those of Mr. Robert Cassels and Mr. A. H. B. Mackenzie, whose indefatigable work since being appointed inspectors was referred to with deservedly marked appreciation at the annual meeting. With such experienced banking officials as the president, general manager, inspectors Cassels and Mackenzie and others, the Sovereign Bank cannot but have the confidence of the public and of bankers generally; and the management and shareholders state emphatically that there is no intention of the institution being acquired by any larger bank. It is now placed on a solid basis and has, with the business and connections already formed, a good future before it.

FIRE AT OTTAWA.

A fire occurred in the Church of the Sacred Heart on the 10th instant, causing a total loss. The following companies are interested:

Royal \$15,000	Montreal-Canada \$5,000
Alliance 10,000	London Mutual 5 000 Richmond 5,000
Queen Citv	Ottawa 4,000
Equity 7,500	Ontario
Phoenix of Hartford. 6,000	
	Total loss \$91,500

(Insurance News on page 789.)

THE YORKSHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

Fortunately unaffected by San Francisco losses, the Yorkshire Insurance Company occupies an enviable position among British fire offices. Although for the first fourscore years of its history the Yorkshire's growth was not marked, it laid the foundations for the greater expansion of the past three or four years. Appropriation for "purchase of business" was made as follows during the past three years: \$70,000 in 1904, \$146,775 in 1905, and \$79,335 in 1906—nearly \$300,000. Now that the three years' term assigned for such expansion is completed, and the businesses of the Lion and the National of Ireland have been assimilated and paid for, the company's funds should rapidly increase—so that the prospects for the future are bright.

Fire business during 1966 brought a net premium income of \$1,170,220 as against \$1,141,335 in the 1905 account. The losses were \$621,030, a ratio of 53 p.c. as against 50.5 p.c. for the preceding year. From the balance at credit of the fire account a sum of \$125,000 has been carried to profit and loss, leaving \$58.015 which with \$21,320 taken from the general reserve fund made up the \$79,335 carried to "purchase of business" account for the year. Fire funds at the close of the year consisted of \$500,000 reserve for unexpired liabilities, and a special reserve fund of \$935,005, making a total of \$1,435,065.

The Yorkshire commenced writing business in Canada last January under the management of Mr. P. M. Wickham, with a strong agency organization throughout the Dominion, and has already created a favorable impression in this country.

MERCHANTS BANK OF CANADA

From the preliminary statement issued this week by the Merchants Bank of Canada, it is evident that the year ending May 31st has been one of solid progress. The earnings for the year-after payment of charges, rebate on discounts, interests on deposits, and making full provision for bad or doubtful debts—amounted to \$961,660. Adding to the year's net profits the balance of \$74,596 brought forward from 1905, there is obtained a total of \$1,036,256. From this the sum of \$400,000 has been added to Reserve bringing that fund up to \$4,000,000-66 2-3 p.c. of the paid-up capital. After making this addition to reserves and providing for dividends, writing off bank premises account, and making contribution to officers' pension fund, there is a balance left to be carried forward amounting to \$34,256.

Deposits during the year increased to \$37,616,546, an advance of \$2,109,587—an indication of the public's well-justified confidence in the bank. Current loans and discounts show an increase for the year of \$4,481,288, having reached a total of \$30,337,977. Against the liabilities to the public amounting to \$42,831,431 it will be noted that there are immediately available assets of no less than \$19,801,400 or over 46 p.c.—altogether a very strong showing. All in all, the statement published shows that the Merchants Bank of Canada is steadily expanding its business year by year, without in any way departing from its long record of strength and conservative banking methods.

The year just closed is the second under Mr. E. F. Hebden's general managership, and the results are indicative of able supervision over the bank's affairs.

MONTREAL LIGHT, HEAT & POWER.

As mentioned briefly in THE CHRONICLE of lat week the sixth annual report of the Montreal Light, Heat & Power Company, covering the year ended April 30, 1907, shows gross earnings for the twelve months amounting to \$3,453,490. Net profits, after providing for fixed charges, interest, etc., were \$1,440.582. The gross increase for the year was, therefore, \$267,387, while the net advance was \$162,095. Four quarterly dividends of 1 1-4 p.c. were declared out of the net profits, each amounting to \$850,000, and there then remained a balance of \$590,582. Adding to the year's surplus the \$901,-158 brought forward from the preceding year gave a total of \$1.491.740. out of which there were made appropriations amounting to \$386,892 for depreciations, renewals, insurance fund, contingent account and suspense account, leaving a balance to carry forward of \$1,104,848.

The general balance sheet of April 30, stood as follows:

ASSETS.

tocks, Bonds and Inter	rests in
other Corporations New Construction	\$23,760,418.22 3,383,286.04
	\$27,14 3,704.2

CURRENT ASSETS.

Bonds in Treasury\$	459,000.00
Accounts Collectible	578 239.35
Stores, Gas Stoves, etc	197,097.40
Coal, Coke, Tar, etc	49,508.53
Cash on hand	30,703.98

1,314,549.26

\$28,458,253.52

\$26,468,441 83

884,963.86

Accountant.

LIABILITIES.

Capital Stock)
In Escrow 976,000.00 Unissued 1,048,000.00 2,024,000.00 5,476,000.00	0
Lachine Sinking Fund 5% Bends 4,000,000.00	
In Escrow 495,000.00 Redeemed and cancelled 104,000.00 590,000 00 3,401,000,00	0
Subsidiary Companies' Sinking Funds 90 103.8 General Suspense Account 76,337 9 Insurance Account 225,000,0 Contingent Account 209,000,0	9

CURRENT LIABILITIES.

329,458.55
40.670.20
112 051.25
16,036 89
166,012.58
8,234.29
212,500 00

Surplus Account.... 1, '04,847.83 \$28,458,253 52

Certifed Correct, H. R. LYONS,

Verified,
P. S. ROSS & SONS,

Chartered Accountants.

Prominent Topics

The United States and Japan.

It is to be hoped, and there is reason to believe that the hostility of the Japanese towards the United States has been sen-

sationally exaggerated, as this kind of thing usually is. The Japs are not disposed to be aggressive, but their victory over one of the biggest nations on earth has quite naturally led them to stand more upon their dignity. It is unfortunate for the United States that the treaty-making power of the Federal government should be qualified by State rights, and also by a disposition upon the part of large sections of the people to ignore international responsibilities undertaken by the Federal power. It cannot fail to have a prejudicial effect upon future treaty negotiations. The United States has much to lose and absolutely nothing to gain by quarrelling with Japan. But there will be no quarrel this time.

The Death of Mr. J. P. Dawes. By the death of Mr. J. P. Dawes, Montreal loses a man who has for many years been prominently identified with its

business, social and sporting life. The Windsor Hotel Company loses its president, and the Merchants Bank of Canada, one of its directors. Few men have done more than he to advance the interests of the turf in Canada, and to uphold the prestige of Canadian horses both here and in the United States. In this, as in most things he undertook Mr. Dawes achieved distinguished success. One of Montreal's best known and most respected business men has passed away.

The N. Y. Two Cents a Mile Bill. The governor of New York State has vetoed the bill passed by the Legislature requiring all railways over 150 miles long, to

carry passengers at two cents a mile. This bill was a fair specimen of the crank legislation so frequently passed nowadays, to meet a popular demand; without regard to business possibilities or to vested rights, and without any adequate sense of responsibility. One thing nearly always lost sight of in this kind of legislation is its ultimate effect in discouraging the investment of capital in works which are public necessities.

U. S. Government Funds. The Secretary of the United States Treasury has called for the return by July 10 next of \$30,000,000 of government funds

now on deposit in banks throughout the country. As a considerable proportion of the four per cent. bonds maturing will have been presented for redemption by July 10, the surrender of the deposits on that date will not cause any financial disturbance.

The week ending Saturday last was spoken of on the London Stock Exchange as about the blackest in many years. Values continued to shrink,

and the present week's settlement was awaited with more than usual apprehension. The failure of a prominent firm brings up the total number since the beginning of the year to thirty. Almost perpetual liquidation has characterized the market ever since the American debacle in March.

Notwithstanding an increase in the proportion of reserve to liabilities, the Bank return of a week ago was by no means a strong one. The Paris demand for gold continued heavy and the Bank evidently suffered as the figures of the return given elsewhere in this issue show. It is not surprising therefore that the present 4 per cent, rate was maintained. Only by calling loans was the bank able to keep its reserves unimpaired.

The Bank of France, on the other hand, added almost \$8,000,000 to its gold holdings and increased its supply of silver, which can be used in payment of notes, etc., to prevent the loss of gold.

The Paris Bourse, however, continues to share London dullness, and the Berlin market too has been deeply depressed, money continuing tight, and the hope of reduction in the Reichsbank rate being again deferred.

European authorities incline to the view that the end is "not yet but soon" and that while investors may well buy special securities on declines, the speculator should exercise caution. The lack of interest in stocks on the part of investment bargain hunters who are ordinarily in evidence at a time like the present, is accounted for by the circumstance that trade all over the world is so tremendously active that it is finding use at renunerative terms for almost unlimited capital. And, of course, this condition of money stringency prevents purely speculative activity on account of the narrow margin available for credits.

During the present week, London sentiment developed a somewhat more cheerful tone. Gilt edged securities hardened with bear coverings, and an encouraging feature was the fact that the Bank of England secured the week's gold arrivals at a reduced price, France's demand ceasing. Money by Tuesday was obtainable at rather easier rates, and on the Stock Exchange the arrangement of the settlement proceeded more smoothly than a fortnight ago.

Wednesday's best features in London were investment purchases in Colonial loans and Indian railways. Consols closed unchanged at 83 7-8 after a fractional decline. Small difficulties were reported at the stock market settlement. Discounts were firm and a trifle higher. At Berlin and Brussels rates eased. Paris exchange on London was unchanged at 25 fr. 14c.

Tight Money. There is no question but that money is tight. Nevertheless there are people who appear to consider it wise to increase the tightness by hoarding up considerable amounts of money in the proverbial old woman's stocking. To those who have confidence in the future of Canada, it would not seem to be an opportune time for keeping large sums of capital hidden away.

Canadian Bank Clearings for the week ending June 6th follow, as compiled by Bradstreets, showing increase or decrease upon 1906 showing:

Montreal	\$31,042,000	Inc.	6.5
Toronto	26,264,000	Dec.	
Winnipeg	12,165,000	•	29.7
Ottawa	3,207,000		11.4
Vancouver	3,927,000		64.0
Halifax	2,153,000	Dec.	5.7
Quebec	2,694,000	Inc.	19.0
Hamilton	2,001,000	Inc.	
St John, N. B	1,472,000	Inc.	20.4
London	1,488,000	Inc.	9.0
Victoria			59.7
Calgary		Inc.	55.7
Edmonton	979,000		

Correspondence

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

NEW YORK INSURANCE LETTER.

New York, June 12, 1907.

The raking up of life insurance matters in this city is Under the again occupying much of the public attention. direction of the district attorney a grand jury was selected and, as is already well known, the indictment of President John R. Hegeman, of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company followed. Now ex-comptroller Thomas D. Jor-dan, of the Equitable Life, has been indicted on very much the same charges. The indictment of Mr. Hegeman was received with peculiar sorrow and regret by almost the entire community, except the portion which had been in-flamed and stirred up by the sensational character of daily press reports. No one who knows him believes him press reports. No one who knows him believes him guilty of any wrong-doing, and his indictment was merely upon technicalities which it is impossible to believe will stand for anything when the trial comes on, which is ex-pected in October. Mr. Hegeman is a man of so noble pected in October. and generous a character, and his services in the Metro-politan Life have been of such extraordinary distinction, that many a man has been heard to exclaim that a grand jury who would indict him under the circumstances serves indictment itself." It is confidently predicted that his trial will acquit him legally, as he has already been acquitted in the minds and hearts of those who know him best.

The work of the Royal Commission in Canada with the formation of new laws and regulations regarding life insurance has been watched with interest on this side the border. While all credit for dignity and good intention is given to the officials of His Majesty, the output, after all, seems to be but a poor copy of the Armstrong enactments which have created such a disturbance in the life insurance business in the United States.

The National Fire Protection Association, one of the most important bodies auxiliary to fire insurance, met in this city on the 22nd ult. There is no space here to reproduce the proceedings in detail, but it is only proper to say that too much stress cannot be laid upon the importance of the work of this association and its influence upon fire protection matters. It is noteworthy that the leading movers in it are fire insurance men, and that they are experts in the matter of fire prevention and fire protection, who have given the best of their lives to solving the difficult problems of fire-proof construction, proper fire protection, and the conditions of a lower fire loss generally.

Mr. E. G. Richards, U. S. Manager of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, who has recently returned to business from a siege in the hospital, has just departed for a visit to the Pacific Coast. It seems proper to quote here the comments recently made by a local insurance paper upon the qualities which Mr. Richards has developed since he became manager of the North British: "The occasion of the National Board meeting was practically the first appearance of Manager Richards, of the North British, after an absence from business for a month or two on account of illness. Mr. Richards has become a strong factor in American underwriting. He possesses originality, rigid insistence on what he believes to be right, and, so far as an American manager can do so, he has

instituted methods in the United States branch of the great foreigner, which it might better have known before, Broad and charitable in their view of men and things, such noble natures stand out in strong contrast to the weak and futile personalities which on occasion find their way into a sort of business prominence, even sometimes in fire and life insurance."

NOTES.

The Norwich Union Insurance Company has appointed Mr. William Hare, son of U.S. Manager Hare, superintendent of the company's agents for the West.

The Norwich and London Accident Insurance Company which recently entered this country for business, has filed papers with the Massachusetts Insurance Department, and will shortly begin writing insurance in that State.

President Hugo Schumann, of the Germania Fire Insurance Company, sailed recently for a period of recreation in Europe.

Manager Charles Lyman Case, of the London Assurance Corporation, has sailed for Europe, going first to Germany and later on visiting the home office at London.

Manager James Glenn, of the National of Great Britain is in the United States looking over the field with a view to entering the company in this country for business.

The Rochester German Insurance Company, which has been for many years in the agency of T. Y. Brown & Co., has gone over to the office of Willard S. Brown & Co., who become its agents for Greater New York.

Manager U. C. Crosby, of the Royal Exchange, is still abroad, where he will remain until about July 1.

The Equitable Life Assurance Society denies the rumor that it will sell its great building in Broadway to erect another structure on a side street.

The election of Manager Geo. W. Babb, of the Northern Assurance Company, of London, as president of the New York Board of Fire Underwriters, meets with general approval. Mr. Babb is an earnest and intelligent worker, and his services as chairman of the Committee of Statistics of the National Board have been of the highest order.

QUERIST

Stock Exchange Notes

Little of interest developed in this week's market and the volume of trading was again limited. Dominion Iron Common was the only active stock, but Montreal Power and Detroit Railway were also prominent in the trading. A feature of prominence was the development from the annual meeting of the Sovereign Bank which is fully dealt with in another column. There has been no change in monetary conditions locally and the amount of new money coming out is practically nil, while rates continue at the level prevailing for some months past. The opportunity for investment buying continues and safe purchases at attractive prices are numerous. The level of quotations was fairly steady.

C. P. R. closed with 168 1-2 bid, an advance of 1 1-4 points, the stock was very inactive and only 66 shares figured in the week's business The earnings for the first week of June show an increase of \$317,000. Soo Common was strong and closed offered at 105 with 100 bid. was only one transaction, 25 shares changing hands at 105. Montreal Street was heavy at 208 bid, a loss of 1 point on quotation for the week and only 201 shares were traded in Toronto Railway figured in the week's business to the ex-tent of 426 shares and closed with 103 bid as compared with 104 3-4 a week ago. Twin City shows an advance of 1 1-8 points and closed with 92 5-8 bid on sales of 325 shares. Detroit Railway was again heavy and on sales of 607 shares closed with 63 3-4 bid, a further loss of 1 3-4 points. There was only one transaction in Toledo, 25 shares changing hands at 25 3-4. The stock closed offered at 26 3-4 with 25 3-4 bid. Illinois Traction Preferred was traded in to the extent of 103 shares and closed unchanged from a week ago with 84 1-2 bid. Halifax tram sales totalled 14 shares, 10 shares at 99 and 4 shares at 100, while the stock closed offered at 100 with 97 bid.

R. & O. closed with 70 bid, a loss on quotation of 1 full point and 139 shares were dealt in. The Mackay stocks were again heavy. The Common was traded in to the ex-

tent of 267 shares and closed at a decline of 1 1-2 points The Preferred closed with 65 bid, a loss on with 65 bid. quotation of 1 3-4 points on sales of 371 shares. Montreal Power, in sympathy with the rest of the market, was heavy and closed with 88 1-4 bid. It was the second stock in point of activity and 774 shares changed hands.

Dominion Iron Common was the most active stock in the market and 2,175 shares were traded in. It was firm in price and closed with 20 1-2 bid, a net gain of 1-2 point from last week's closing quotation. The Preferred figured in the trading to the extent of 215 shares and closed at an advance of 3 points, with 52 bid. The trading in the Bonds involved \$3,000, and the closing bid of 75 1-2 shows a gain of 1-4 point.

Dominion Coal Common closed with 58 bid as compared with 59 a week ago and there were no transactions. In the Preferred 10 shares changed hands at 106, but there were no sales of the Bonds. Nova Scotia Steel Common sales no sales of the bolius. Nova scotta steel Common sales involved 125 shares and the stock closed with 69 5-8 bid. In the Preferred 10 shares were dealt in at 117 1-2 and

\$5,000 of the Bonds changed hands.

Lake of the Woods Common was traded in to the extent of 150 shares. The last sales were made at 75 and the stock closed with 75 bid. There were no sales in the Preferred stock but \$1,000 of the Bonds changed hands at 100. Dominion Textile Preferred sales involved 120 shares and the stock closed with 89 1-2 bid. Canadian Colored Cotton closed with 52 bid and Montreal Cotton offered at 125 with 120 bid. The closing quotations for Dominion Textile Bonds were as follows: Series A 87 bid: Series B 88 bid; Series C 87 bid; Series D no quotation.

Call money in Montreal remains unchanged. There is little new money coming out and the Bank rate continues at 6 per cent. The ruling rate in New York to-day was 2 1-2 per cent., while in London the rate was 3 per cent. The Bank of England rate is unchanged.

		Per cent.
Call money in Montreal		6
Call money in New York		2 1-2
Call money in London		3
Bank of England rate		4
Consols		83 7-8
Demand Sterling		9 5-8
60 days' sight Sterling		8 7-8
The quotations for money at Con	itinental p	oints are as
follows:—		
	Mark	
Paris	31	
Berlin	41	
Amsterdam	43	
Brussels		1-2 5
Vienna		-2 5

CLEARINGS FOR THE WEEK.

MONTREAL BANK CLEARINGS for the week ending June 13th were \$29,027,730. For the corresponding weeks of 1906 and 1905 they were \$30,620,465 and \$26,173,962 respect-

TORONTO CLEARINGS for the week ending June 13th were \$25,962,201. For the corresponding week of last year they were \$24,085,389.

TRAFFIC EARNINGS.

The gross traffic earnings of the Grand Trunk Canadian Pacific, Canadian Northern, Duluth South Shore & Atlantic railways, and the Montreal, Toronto, Halifax, Twin City, Detroit United and

Havana street railways, up to the most recent date obtainable, compared with the corresponding period for 1905 and 1906, were as follows:

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

Year to date,	1905.	1906.	1907.	Increase
May 31 \$1	4,032,791	\$15,350,733	\$17,210,596	\$1,859,863
Week ending. June 7	1905.	1906.	1907.	Increase-
	684,533	774,726	854,859	80,133

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

Year to date May 31\$ Week ending		1906. \$24,650,000 1906.	1907.	Increase.
June 7	972,000	1,237,000	1,554,000	317,000
	CANADIAN	NORTHERN	RAILWAY.	

Year to date. 1905. June 30 \$3,871,800		1906. \$5,563,100.		\$1,691,300
₩eek ending. June 7	1905. 82,400	1906. 134,300	1907. 208,100	73,800
Dulu	тн, Ѕоптн	SHORE &	ATLANTIC.	
	2.4			T

DULU	TH, SOUTH	SHORE &	ATLANTIC.	
Week ending. May 7 14 21 31	1905. 52,969 57,796 59,657 82,189	1906. 58,665 57,232 62,875 86,443	1907. 67,710 68,187 68,021 118,940	Increase 9,045 10,955 5,146 32,497

MONTREAL STREET RAILWAY.

Year to date.	1905.	1906.	1907.	Increase
May 31\$1		\$1,172,287	\$1,534,795 1907.	\$162,508 Increase
Week ending.	1905. 53,25 4	1906. 63,339	70,728	7,389

TORANTO STREET RAILWAY.

Year to date. May 31\$1,0	1905.	1906. \$1,160,041	1907. \$1,290,655	Increase \$130,614
Week ending.	1905.	1906.	1907.	Increase
June 7	50,884	59,106	62,882	3776

TWIN CITY RAPID TRANSIT COMPANY

Year to date.	1905. \$1,381,894	1906. \$1,609,363	1907. \$1,805,867	Increase \$196,504
Week ending	g. 1905.	1906.	1907. 108,897	Increase 11.994
14	82,868 84,687	96,903 96,377	109,865	13,488
21	87,765	99,065	112,272	13,207
31	132 325	153.162	163 .218	10,056

HALIFAX ELECTRIC TRAMWAY Co., LTD.

	Railwa	ay Receipts.		
Week ending.	1905.	1906.	1907.	Increase 205
May 7	2,372	2,741	2,946 2,757	78
14	2,368 2,366	2,681 2,703	2,926	223
21,	3,604	4.127	4.411	284
Inna 7	0,000	3 202	3 445	244

DETROIT UNITED RAILWAY. 1907. Week ending. 1905. 1906. 11,583 90,099 102,690 May 7.... 91,050 103,197 110,914 92,378

HAVA	NA ELECTRIC	RAILWAT Co.	
Week ending.	1906.	1907.	Increase
June 2	27,446	32,219	4,773
9	29,511	35,000	5,489

The Directors have decided to insure properties of every description in Canada at Tariff Rates, in accordance with the needs of the country, and are now prepared to receive

Applications for Agencies from Leading Agents in all parts of the Dominion.

The LIMITS are as large as those of the best | The FUNDS of the Company will be invested in Canada by LOANS on Real Estate. British Companies.

No loss was suffered by the "Yorkshire" through the serious fires in San Francisco and the Pacific Coast.

Address P. M. WICKHAM, Manager, Montreal.

STOCK LIST

REPORTED FOR THE CHRONICLE BY R. WILSON-SMITH & CO., 160 St. JAMES STREET, MONTREAL CORRECTED TO JUNE 12th, 1907, P. M.

BANKS.	Closing prices or Last sale.	Par value of one share.	Revenue per cent. on investment at present prices.	Capital subscribed	Capital paid up.	Reserve Fund f	Per centage of Rest to paid up Cepital.	Rate of Dividend	When Dividend payatle.
ritish North America	Acked Bid 154 152 172 171;	\$ 243 50 100 50	Per Cent. 4 63 4 70 5 93	\$ 4,866,666 10,000,000 95',000 3,000,000 2,951,500	\$ 4,866.666 10,000,000 951,480 3,000,0 0 2,9 5,400	2,238,696 5,000,000 3 900,000 1,860 000	\$ 46.00 50.00 130.00 63.14	Per Cent 7 8 4 12 8	April, October, March, June, Sept., Dec. January, July, Jan., April, July, October Jan., April, July, October
amilton	118	100 100 100	5 40 5 00	2,473,700 2,000,000 896,900 4,926,000	2,470,210 2,000,000 895 520 4,674,991	2,470.210 1,609.000 175.000 4,674,991 600.004	100.00 83.00 19.75 100.00 36.28	10 8 6 11	March, Ju e, Sept., Dec. June, December. June, December. Feb., May, August, Nov. May, November.
ome Bank of Canada mperial a Banque Nationale erchants Ba'k of Canada letropolitan Bank olsons ontreal ew Brunswick		100 100 100 100 100	4 01 4 36	8,000,000 1,000,000 3 354 50 14,400 000 707,700	1,653 525 6,000,000 1,000,000 3,189,829 14,400,000 707,200	3,600,000 1,000,000 3,000,000 11,000,000 1,191,630	60.00 100.00 93.00 76.40	8 8 10 10 10	March, June, Sept., Dec. Jan., April, July, October Jan., April, July, October March, June, Sept., Dec. Jan., April, July, October
ow Brunswicz orthern Bank ora Scotla ttawa Ontario ceople's Bank of N. B.	288	100 100 100 100	4 13	1,250,000 3,000,000 3 000,000 1,500,000	1,146,202 3,000,000 3,000,000 1,500,000	53,000 5,250,000 3,000,000 700,000 180,000	4.20 175.00 100.00 46.66	iż 10 8	Jan., Avril, July, Cctober June, December. January, July.
rovincial Bank of Canada quebec	1	100 100 100 100	4 23	1,004,287 2,500,000 3,930,000 4,000,000 1,531,150	4,000,000 4,000,000	150,000 1,150,000 4,390,000 1,255,950 1,605,678	46.00 112.56 31.50	5 7 10 6 12	March, June, Sept., Dec. March, June, Sept., Pec. Jan., April, July, October Feb., May, Aug, Nov. March, June, Sept., Dec.
it. Stephens tt. Hyveinthe tt. Johns terling Bank		100 100	4 54	200,000 504,600 500,200 777,100 3,987,400	829.515 361, 76 674,704	75,000 10,000	22.76 3.33	5 10	April, October. January, July. May, Aug., Nov. Feb' March, June, Sept., Dec.
Fraders Union Bank of Halifax Union Bank of Canada United Empire Bank Western		. 100 100	:::	4,441,600 1,500 000 3,000.040 587,500 585,000	1,500 000 8,000,000 444,31	1,143,752	76.00 50.00	7 7 7	June, December. Feb., May, August, No. June, December. April, October
MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS.						0.100.07	.	l	Jan. April July Cet
Bell Telephone B. C. Packers Assn "A" do "B" Go "Com Can, Colored Cotton Mills Co. Canada General Electric Canadian Pacific Canadian Converters Detroit Electric St	169 16	100 100 100 2 100 100 83	7 69 8 52 6 89	10,000,000 1,270,000 1,511,400 2,70+60 1,475,00 121,680,00 1,733,50 12,500,00	1,270,000 1,511,40 0 2,700,u0 1,475,00 121,680,00 0 1,733,50	000 000 000	6	2° 2 6 3 1*	January July. April. October March, June, Sept, Dec
Daminion Cost Professed		100 8 100 10 100 9 100	6 34	8,000,00 15,000,00 7,500,00	0 15,000 0 5,000.0	00		84 10 130	Apl July Oct. Jany. Jan. April July October
do Common Dominion Testile Co. Com Dominion Testile Co. Com O Pfd Dom. Iron & Steel Com do Pfd Duluth S. S. & Atlantic do Pfd		50 100 100		2,500,00 20,000,00 5,000,00 12,000,00 10,000,00	0 28,000,0	00 00		ii.	Jan. April July Octo
Havana Electric Ry Com do Preferred	30 80	97 10 25 10 70 10 844 10	0 6 06 0 7 50 0 6 66	1,356,00 7,500,00 5,000,00 3,214,30 1,600,00		00 00		13	Ton April July Octob
Illinois Trac. Pfd Labrentide Paper Com. Laurentide Paper, Pfd. Lake of the Woods Mill Co. Com. do. Pfd. Mackay Companies Com do Mexican Light & Power Co Minn, St. Paul & S.S.M Montreal Cotton Co	108 1 76 108 66 66	05 10 75 10 65 10 65 10	0 6 36 0 7 77 0 6 48	1,200,00 2,500,0 1,500,0 50,000,0	00 1,200, 00 2,000, 00 1,500 00 43,487,	100 100 200		34* 319* 14* 1*	February August January July April October March, June, Sept. D Jan. April July Octo Jan. April July Octo
do Pfd Mexican Light & Power Co Minn, St. Paul & S.S.M do Pfd Montreal Cotton Co	461 105 C.D 125	46 100 120 120	00 3 80 00 3 80 00 5 73 00 5 49	13,600,6 14,000,6 7,000,6 3,000,6	13,690, 00 14,000, 00 7,000, 00 3,000,	000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000		34 11 11	March June best. Feb. May August
Montreal Cotton Co. Montreal Light, Ht. & Pwr. Co Montreal Steel Work, Com do do Pfd. Montreal Street Railway. Montreal Telegraph	158	208	00 6 06 00 6 60 00 4 60 40 4 93	700, 800, 7,000.		000 000 000 000 000 000		1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Feb. May August N. Jan April July Cotte
Niplesting Mining Co Northern Ohio TracCo North-West Land, Com do Pfd N. Scotia Steel & Coal Co. Com.	X.D 27	251 1	00 6 66 28 00 7 04	6,900, 1,467, 3,090, 4,120,	000 6,900 881 1,467 825 3,000 5,000 5,000	.681 .626 .000 756	0,000 15.00		March. * Jan. April June Oct
Cglivie Flour Mills Com	115j 71 42j	112 70 42‡	00 00 5.83 00 6.84	1,280, 2,000, 3,132,	000 1,250 000 2,600 000 3,133 000 21,993	,000 ,000 ,000 3,000	:::	75	Jan. April July Oct. Payable Dec, 1st
Sao Paulo	26) 103	254 103	100 100 100 7.6 100 5.6	800, 12,000, 7,000	000 12,00 000 7,00 000 1,03	2,080	8,322 22.5	0 1	June, December. May. November. Jan. April July Oct Jan. April July Oct
Tri. City Ry. Co. Com	93	924	100 100 5 2 100	3,000 20 000 3,000	000 2,60 000 18 00	0,000	0,205 4.5	1 1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

. Quarterly. + Annual. If These figures are corrected from last Govt. Bank Statement The assets and liabilities of this Bank have been taken over by the Bank of Montree

STOCK LIST Continued.

BONDS.	Latest Quota- tions.	Rate of Interest per annum.	Amount outstanding.	When Interest due.	Where Interest payable	Date of Maturity,	REMARKS
Bell Telephone Co	1061	5 %	\$2,000,000	1st Oct. 1st Apl.	Bk. of Montreal, Mtl	April 1st, 1925	
Can. Colored Cotton Co	$95\frac{1}{2}$	6 %	2,000,000	2nd Apl. 2nd Oct.	"	April 2nd, 1912	
Dominion Coal Co	98	5 %	5,000,000	lst May 1st Nov.	" "	April 1st, 1940	Redeemable at 105 and Int. after May 1st, 1910
Dominion Cotton Co	97	6 %	1,354,000	1st Jan. 1st July.		Jany. 1st, 1916	Thursday 100, 1010
Dominion Iron Steel Co	77	5 %	7,876,000	st Jan. 1st July.	Bk. of Montreal, Mtl	July 1st, 1929	
Havana Electric Railway.	90	5 %	8,061,046	lst Feb. 1st Aug.	52 Broadway, N. Y	Feby. 1st, 1952	
Lake of the Woods MillCo.	98	6 %	1,000,000	lst June 1st Dec,	Merchants Bank of Canada, Montreal	June 1st, 1953	
Laurentide Paper Co		6 %	1,200,000	2 Jan. 2 July.	Bk. of Montreal, Mtl	Jany. 2nd, 1920	
Mexican Electric Light Co.	77	5 %	6,000,000	1 Jan. 1 July.	" "	July 1st, 1935	
Mexican Light & Power Co.	813	5 %	12,000,000	1 Feb. 1 Aug.	" "	Feby. 1st, 1933	
Montreal L. & Power Co	102	41%	7,500,000	l Jan. 1 July	" "	Jany. 1st, 1932	Redeemable at 105 and Int. after 1912.
Montreal Street Ry. Co	104	41%	1,500,000	1 May 1 Nov.	" "	May 1st, 1922	
N. S. Steel & Coal Co	110	6 %	2,500,000	l Jan. 1 July.	Bk. of N. Scotia, Mtl. or Toronto	July 1st, 1931	
OgilvieMilling Co	1201	6 %	1,000,000	l June 1 Dec.	Bk. of Montreal, Mtl	July 1st, 1932	Redeemable 115 and Int. after 1912.
Price Bros		6 %	1,000,000	l June 1 Dec.		June 1st, 1925	Redeemable at 105 and Interest.
Sao Paulo	95	5 %	6,000,000	1 June 1 Dec.	C. B. of C., London Nat. Trust Co., Tor	June 1st, 1929	
Textile Series " A "	90	6 %	758,500	1 March 1 Sept.	Royal Trust Co., Mtl.	March 1st, 1925	Redeemable at 110 and Interest.
" "B"	90	6 %	1,162,000	"	" "	"	Redeemable atpar at-
"C"	90	6 %	1,000,000	"	"	"	ter 5 years. Redeemable at 105 and Interest.
" " D"	90	6 %	450,000	••	" "	••	
Winnipeg Electric	1053	5 %	3,500,000	l Jan. 1 July.	Bk. of Montreal, Mtl	Jany. 1st, 1935	ì

[FIRE]

German American

Insurance Company New York

STATEMENT JANUARY 1, 1907

CAPITAL

5, 130,426 13,798,729

AGENCIES THROUGHOUT UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

MERCHANTS BANK OF CANADA

Statement of the result of the business of the Bank for the year ended May 31st, 1907.

The Net Profits of the year, after payment of charges, rebate on discounts, in-	
terest on deposits, and making full provision for bad and doubtful debts,	
have amounted to	\$ 961,660.06
have amounted to	74,596.19
Making a Total of \$1.0	
This has been disposed of as follows:—	
Dividend No. 76, at the rate of 8 per cent, per annum\$120,000 00	
Dividend No. 77, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum \$120,000.00	
Dividend No. 78, at the rate of 8 per cent, per annum	
Dividend No. 79, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum\$120,000.00	400 000 00
Added to Reserve Fund	480,000.00 400,000.00
Written off Bank Premises Account	100,000.00
Contribution to Officers' Pension Fund	22,000.00
Contribution to Officers' Pension Fund	34,256.25
\$1,0	36,256.25
Statement of Liabilities and Assets at 31st Ma	ıy, 1907
LIABILITIES.	
1. To the Public. 1907.	1906.
Notes in Circulation	\$ 3,984,050.00
Deposits at Call	11,349,169.99 22,888,354.36
Deposits due to other Banks in Canada	1,269,435.06
37,616,546.58	1,200,100.00
Balance due to Agents in Great Britain	165,471.17
Balance due to Banks and Agents in the United States 123,416.59	
Dividend No. 79	210,000.00
Dividends unclaimed 2,303.00	878.50
- 42,831,430 90 · 39,	867.359.08
2. To the Stockholders. Capital paid up	6,000,000.00 3,600,000.00
Surplus Profits 34,256.25	74,596.19
10,034,250.20	
\$52,865,687.15 \$49,	541,955-27
ASSETS.	
Gold and Silver Coin on hand \$ 1,571,175.29	£1 025 898 53
Dominion Notes on hand	2,631,494.75
Notes and Cheques of other Banks	1,768,139.78
Balances due by other Banks in Canada	3,550.40
Balances due by Banks and Agents in the United States	203,862.84
Call and Short Loans on Bonds and Stocks in	
Canada	
United States	1 6,898,410.32
Dominion and Provincial Government Securities 629,421.23	2 629,421.22
Railway, Municipal and other Debentures 6,302,425.1	0 6,365,708.64
Total Assets inmediately available \$19,801,399.72 \$19.	526 486 64
The state of the s	
Time Loans on Bonds and Stocks in United States	
Loans and discounts overdue (loss fully provided for)	58,387.35
Mortgages and other Securities, the property of the Bank. 133,645.1	
Mortgages and other Securities, the property of the Bank. 133,645.1 Real Estate 21,606.2	
Bank Premises and Furniture	
Other Assets 22,539.1	4 26,508.06
\$52,865,687.15 \$49	.541,955.27

THE YORKSHIRE Fire and Life Insurance Company.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

REPORT OF FIRE DEPARTMENT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1906.

THE NET PREMIUM INCOME, after deduction of Reinsurances, amounted to \$1,170,220, as against \$1,141,335, in the previous account.

The Losses were \$621,030., the ratio being 53 per cent., as against 50.5 last year.

From the balance at credit of this account \$125,000 has been carried to Profit and Loss, leaving \$58.015, which with \$21,320 taken from the General Reserve Fund, together \$79,335, has been carried to the "Purchase of Business" Account for the year.

The Profit and Loss Account,

after payment of the Dividend and other charges, shows a credit balance of \$143,030.

FIRE ACCOUNT.

Funds at the beginning of the year — Reserve for unexpired liabilities on current risks	\$500,000 \$956,990 \$1,456,990	Losses by Fire (after deduction of Reinsurances) Commission Expenses of Management Income Tax Bai Debts	\$621,030 139,640 275,785 1,910 540
Premiums received (after deduction of Reinsurances) Interest and Dividends Conscience Money	1,170,220 50,675 25	Carried to "Purchase of Business" Account Do. Profit and Loss Account FIRE FUNDS at the end of the year:— Reserve for unexpired Liabilities	\$1,038,905 79,340 125,000
		on current risks	\$1,4 35 , 665
	59 878 910	- S2	,678,910

BALANCE SHEET. ON THE 31st DECEMBER, 1906.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Shareholder's Capital Life Assurance and Annuity Fund Investment Reserve Fire Account: Reserve for unexpired liabilities on current risks. General Reserve. 935,665	\$278,230 7,678,985 75,000	Mortgages on property within the United Kingdom. Do do out do Do do Life interests and reversions Loans on the Company's Policies	\$1,948,490 342,585 862,085 229,250
Accident Fund. Profit and Loss Account Dividend Reserve Fund. Pension and Guarantee Fund.	100,520 143,030 75,000 26,945	Stocks and Shares, Preference and Ordinary, Freehold and Leasehold Property On Deposit and Deposit Stocks with Indian Colonial and Continental Banks	4,363,940 180,275
Claims under Life Policies outstanding. Outstanding Fire Lorses (after deducting Remsurances)	9,813,375 35,855 226,045 7,220 5,540 10,248,110 328,655	In ground rents Advances on Annuity, loans to Town Corporations and other public bodies (present value). Reversions and life interests purchased Loans on personal security with Life Policies Deposit with Foreign Government. Agent's and branch balances. Due from other companies. Outstanding premiums (in course of collection). Outstanding interest (in course of collection). Interest accrued on new investments CASH:— On deposit and in hand and on current account. Bills receivable. Stamps on hand.	56,185 240,380 305,475 52,585 5,050 739,315 365,525 18,590 23,210 490,205 8,945 430
		A sets of the Great Britain Mutual Life Assurance Society as per separate Balance Sheet	10,248,110 328,655

\$10.576,765

\$10,576,765

The Sovereign Bank of Canada

Annual Report.

President's Introductory Remarks.

Before asking the Secretary to read the Directors' report, it seems accession that I should explain why I am your Chairman to-day. Until very recently I have not been a shareholder in this Bank, except to a very small extent, and I have not in any way been interested in its affairs. Upon my return from England in April last, the large foreign interests which held stock in the Bank represented to me that they were not satisfied with the way in which it was being managed, and they intimated that they would like me to take the active Presidency. It was also stated to me that Mr. Macdonaid, your late President, had expressed himself as anxious to be relieved of office, feeling that special attention at the moment was necessary, and that he had not the technical knowledge, nor had he the time to devote from his business, which takes him away from Toronto for long periods of time, to properly look after the Bank's affairs.

Apart from the dissatisfaction with the management, they stated that the Bank's methods had caused great irritation to the other Canadian Banks, who were, in consequence, not very friendly towards it, and they felt that, owing to my close connection with a number of the banking institutions. I might be able at the present moment to bring about a better feeling with the other banks.

My first duty on taking office was to ask the Board to appoint Mr. Jemmett, of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, as Joint General Manager, and Mr. Stewart was at once given leave of absence. Subsequently, Mr. Stewart sent in his resignation, which has been accepted, and Mr. Jemmett has been appointed General Manager, Mr. Cassels and Mr. Mackenzie had already been secured as inspectors, to make a quick report of the Bank's affairs, and from the day on which Mr Jemmett assumed his duties he, together with myself and the Inspectors, has been continuously engaged in a revaluation of the Bank's entire assets. Had not Mr. Cassels and Mr. Mackenzie possessed some previous knowledge of the Bank's affairs, it would have been impossible to have accomplished this work in the time allotted to us, namely, the period between the 1st May and the present date. I am glad to say, however, that, by constant work almost night and day, we are now able to lay before you the true position of the Bank. In doing so I wish to say that I realize to the full the gravity of what we have found it necessary to do, and the keen disappointment you will The facts are that the management was too anxious to build up a business quickly, and you are now to feel the effects of over zeal, and losses which have been incurred though unauthorized advances.

In the course of my investigations I find some of our largest losses are in accounts never authorized, or never reported to the Directors. In fact, in some cases, the Directors were kept in total ignorance of their existence, never having heard of them until brought to their attention by us

Without further comment, therefore, we will enter on the formal business of the meeting, and I will call upon the Secretary to read the Directors' Report.

THE DIRECTORS REPORT

The annual report of the Sovereign Bank of Canada presented at the annual meeting of the shareholders on Tuesday was as follows:

The Directors beg to present to the Shareholders the Fifth Annual Report covering the year ending 30th April, 1907, together with a statement of assets and liabilities as on the 31st May, 1907. For reasons which will be apparent as we proceed, the Report this year deals also with events which have occurred since the closing of the books on 30th April 19st.

During the past year it became evident that the affairs of the Bank demanded more time than the then President could give, and he expressed his desire to be relieved of the presidency at the end of the Bank's year. At a meeting of the Board held on the 1st May last, his resignation was accordingly accepted. At the same meeting Mr D. M. Stewart resigned from the Directorate, and Mr. Aemilius Jarvis was elected to the Board to fill the vacancy thus caused. Mr. Jarvis was subsequently elected President in place of Mr. Macdonald, who consented to remain on the Board and was elected vice-president Mr. J. H. Dunn, of Londgn, England, who was here at the time in the interest of the Dresdner Bank, was also a director.

It was represented to Mr. Jarvis that the duties of the Presidency would take up a considerable portion of his time and that it would therefore be necessary to make his remuneration sufficient to compensate him for this. A resolution confirming this arrangement will be submitted for your approval.

The new President at once found it his duty to strengthen the Executive, and on the 6th May Mr. F. G. Jemmett, who had for 22 years been in the service of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and for the last five years Secretary of that bank, became Joint General Manager, Mr. Stewart being at the same time granted leave of absence. Mr. Jemmett's first duty was to make as complete and exact a valuation as possible of the assets of the Bank, and the results of his valuation are given in his report to the Board, which is as follows:

General Manager's Report.

The President and Directors of the Sovereign Bank of

Early in May last you offered me the position of Joint General Manager of this Bank, and on the 6th of that month I entered on my new duties, which, owing to Mr. Stewart having been granted leave of absence, involved my taking at once full charge of the bank.

Apart from the general supervision of the daily business of the Bank, the first task awaiting me was the valuation of the assets placed in my charge and as there was an interval of only five weeks between the day on which I began work and the date set for the annual meeting of Shareholders, I have had to devote myself to this valuation the exclusion, as nearly as possible, of everything else.

In the very short time at my disposal it would have been impossible for me to have arrived at a definite conclusion without the invaluable assistance of the Chief Inspector, Mr. Robert Cassels, whom I have known for many years, and with whom I had for some time been intimately associated in the work of the head office of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. It is owing to the unwearied and intelligent aid of Mr. Cassels and of Mr. Mackenzie, the inspector, both of whom entered the service some little time earlier than myself, that I have been able to complete my valuation by this date.

In the valuation of assets amounting to \$25,000,000 it is obvious that there is room for a wide difference of opinion, but when a distinct element of doubt is clearly present in any particular asset, the only right course for a conservative banker is to take the safe view of it, and to place a definite value only on that amount which can, without reasonable doubt, be covered within some reasonable time. Any conjectural value which an asset may have, and which rests entirely on the ability of some person to do something he hopes he may be able to do, and which if he has good fortune it is perhaps not unreasonable to think he may be able to do, should clearly be disregarded. The value, therefore, which has been placed on the Bank's assets is the value which we feel

CERTAIN CAN BE RECOVERED,

not in all cases at once, but by the exercise for a reasonable time of care and patience.

The results of my examination on the lines which I have indicated are as follows:

I have to recommend that there be written off for Bad Debts, \$700,655 91, for depreciation in securities \$150,607.95, and for reduction in Bank Premises and Furniture \$48,109 -In addition to the foregoing, the sum of \$541.494 should be set aside in Contingent Fund for accounts which are in liquidation, or in which there is a large element of doubt, and a further Contingent Fund of \$800,000 should be provided in respect of certain unsatisfactory advances, the outcome of which is at present by no means clear. To do this it will be necessary to appropriate the whole of the Rest Fund, leaving the Bank with a paid-up capital of \$3,000,000. After this has been done there will remain \$25,252,50 to carry forward in the Profit and Loss Account of the current year. There is no question that this result will be a great disappointment to the Board, and it is with much regret that I find it my duty to advise you to this effect. course, however, was clear-to take the facts as I found them and to inform you as promptly as possible of the real condition of the Bank,

It would at the moment be of little use, and would be extremely distasteful to me, to enter into any criticism of

the previous administration, or to try to account for the large losses which have occurred. The depreciation in securities is perhaps not more than should be expected in a year in which values have shrunk as they did last year and I should hope that under favorable conditions a considerable portion of the amount written off should be recovered.

in the very nature of things a new bank, without a history to guide it, is almost certain to incur losses which tory to guide it, is almost certain to insert losses which an older bank would avoid. These considerations apply with special force in this particular case. The Bank has in the past been too ambitious. It has piled up its figures at an

EXTRAORDINARILY RAPID RATE

and it has paid the natural penalty for attempting to grow too tast and for departing from the beaten paths of experience, which in banking more than in any other business it is most necessary to follow. But the losses which have been made are far too heavy to be explained in this way, and I ought perhaps to say that in many cases loans have been made for which sound banking principles offer no apparent justification, and under methods directly contrary to those which will be followed by the present management.

If my Report is adopted, the figures of the Profit and Loss Account and of the General Balance sheet of the Bank will be as follows: It will be observed that the Profit and Loss statement is as of 30th April, with my adjustments made as an addendum. The general balance sheet is as of the 31st

So far as the future of the Bank is concerned, I have no hesitation in saying that

ITS PROSPECTS ARE OF THE BEST.

It will have a fully paid-up capital of \$3,000,000, which we may be certain is absolutely intact, while in the Special Contingent Fund it has, I hope, the nucleus of a Rest Account, which I trust will within the next few years begin to assume respectable proportions. We have throughout Ontario, and in parts of Quebec, a large and valuable business. Our country branches have as a whole been well se-lected, although we think it altogether likely that some of them will have to be closed, and our country managers undoubtedly have the confidence of the farming and mercantile community. Our deposits have shown remarkable growth, and at the moment they amount to over \$13,000,000. of which over 90 per cent. are of a thoroughly normal and healthy nature. Their growth has naturally been checked

that this has been removed, now that we know our exact position, and that our assets on their present valuation are on as sound and clean a basis as any bank could possibly desire, I have no doubt that the Bank will again make steady and continuous progress, and that the esteem in which it is held throughout the country districts will year by year increase. The Bank has its own distinct sphere of usefulness, and in working along safe, sound and conservative lines, it will do its full share in contributing to the prosperity of the districts in which it is represented

F. G. JEMMETT, Joint General Manager.

Toronto, 8th June, 1907. The results of this examination were a most painful surprise to your Board, but after the figures had been carefully revised by your President and considered by the Board, they deemed it necessary to confirm Mr. Jemmett's recommendation.

A by-law will be submitted to you reducing the Capital, and authorizing the necessary application to the Treasury

Board for the confirmation of your action.

Mr. Stewart's resignation of his position as General Manager has been submitted to the Board and duly accepted. Mr. F. G. Jemmett, the Joint General Manager, has been appointed General Manager in place of Mr. Stewart. You will observe that the Profit and Loss Statement sub-

mitted herewith is that of the 30th April last, being the end mitted nerewith is that of the soch April last, being the end of the Bank's year, with the additions of the adjustments made by the new Executive. The Statement of assets and liabilities, is, however, as of the 31st May, instead of the 30th April. This change has been made principally for the reason that as the President and General Manager only assumed their new duties on the 1st and 6th May, respectively, they could not possibly deal with the figures of the 30th April, a date before their responsibility began. In addition to this, it is felt that as the 31st May and 30th November are the dates on which a number of the other Banks close their books for the half-year, it is better that we should conform to the more general custom. A by-law will, therefore, be submitted for your approval changing the date of the Annual Meeting from the second Tuesday in June to the second Tuesday in July. The only practical effect to the shareholders will be that they will receive their dividends in March, June, September and December, instead of on the present dates, and that the dividend payable in December next will be for four months instead of three. dividend for the current three months on the capital will be paid on the 16th August, as usual.

ÆMILIUS JARVIS.

President.

some extent by the recent feeling of uncertainty, but now Toronto, 11th June, 1907.	
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT. Balance at credit of Profit and Loss Account on 30th April, 1906	\$15,931.77 Provincial
Government and Municipal Taxes, Advertising Expenses, and accrued interest on Depos after making some provision for bad and doubtful debts	sits, and 243,027 16
Which has been appropriated as follows.	\$284,908.93
Quarterly dividends, at 6 per cent. per annum:	
No. 13, paid 16th August, 1906	
No. 14, paid 16th November, 1906	
No. 15, paid 16th February, 1907 58,798,20	
No. 16, payable 16th May, 1907	
\$51 956 61	
1.1.1.1.1	
Transferred to Reserve Fund	
	265,739.32
	\$19,169.61
To this have been added:	
Amount transferred from nest Account	255,950.00
Amount transferred from Capital Account	000,000.00 \$2,275,119.6
Against the total thus arrived at the following amounts have been charged:	
	700,695,91
	150,607.95
Written off Bank premises and furniture	48.109.25
Reserved for unearned discount	9,000,00
and a second design to be a second design to	\$541.494.00
	011,101 00
Transferred to Special Contingent Fund as provision for cartain accounts, the outcome	800,000 00
of which is not yet assured	\$1,341,494.0
Balance carried forward to Profit and Loss Account	05.050

GENERAL STATEMENT.

31st May, 1907. LIABILITIES.

				ľΤΙ																		
Notes of the Bank in circulation			• •									٠.				ş	2,2	63,	650 564	.88	8	\$ 2,009,350,00 14,001,215.49
Balances due to other Banks in Canada Balances due to Agents in Great Britain Balances due to other Banks in Foreign Countries Dividends unpaid Other liabilities Capital paid up Balance of Profit and Loss carried forward		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	:: :: ::	::	: : : : : :	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			::							::	::				118,487.30 1,648,788.71 1,706,832.16 3,928.50 8,313.59 3,000,000.00 26,252.50
																				\$2	22,	522,168.31
				ets																		
Gold and Silver Coin	·· ·	··	::		::	::			: :	:	• •	::	:			•			,447 ,491			\$1,393,938.81
Deposit with Dominion Government for security of	of I	Not	te i	circ	mls	tic	n					00	2 10	120								80,000 00
Notes of and Cheques on other banks	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::			:		::	::		::			:	1,061,091.78 280,299.89 1,801,200.87
Call loans and Short Loans																						2,915,199.56
Other Current Loans and Discounts Past Due Bills, (fully provided for) Real Estate, (other than Bank Premises) Bank Premises and Safes and Office Furniture Other Assets	 	 	 ::	::	··· ··· ···		::				 		:								:	\$ 7,531,130.91 14,458,778.00 44,445.45 11,938.09 464,233.25 11,044.61
																				\$	22	522,168.31

General Manager's Remarks.

Now that my report to the Directors and the Directors' Report to the Shareholders have been read, it is not necessary that I should speak to you at any length. There are, however, one or two points on which I think it is well to say a few words.

In the first place, I want to express to you my personal regret that it should have been my lot to make a report on your property which cannot but be regarded by you all as most disappointing. For the facts as I have found them, I have, of course, no responsibility. The task which I had was to make these facts, ascertain what they really meant, and what the assets of the Bank were actually worth, and to place before the Board as quickly as possible the results of my examination.

This I have done, and my figures are before you. As I have said in my Report, I am sure that the Bank is now on a thoroughly sound basis; that you know the worst of it, and that you need have no apprehension regarding the future. If the present prosperity continues—and at the moment there seems little reason to doubt it—it is possible that from the amount which has been placed in the first Contingent Account some recoveries may be made, but the Shareholders' wisest course will be to consider that the whole of that amount will be required to liquidate the debts against which it has been provided.

The position of the Special Contingent Account is a little different. This account is provided mainly in order to meet possible losses on certain accounts, which from a banking standpoint are in a very unsatisfactory condition. The full amount of the advances in these accounts could not possibly be recovered at the present time, while the ultimate source of recovery is not yet within sight. It is quite possible, however, that the securities held against some or all of these debts may before long work into a better position, and that in the course of time they may enable us to liquidate the whole or the greater part of the debts against which they are respectively held. If this should prove to be the case, we should be able to transfer from time to time a substantial portion of this Contingent Fund into a Rest Fund.

We are now making a new start. We have paid up Capital of \$3,000,000, all of which is absolutely intact. We have deposits amounting to

MORE THAN FOUR TIMES OUR CAPITAL.

And in these, and in the excellent business connections at home and abroad which we have, we possess an extremely valuable asset.

The country branches as a whole have been well chosen, and many of them have a business which is far more valuable than I could have anticipated. We have in our country managers a loyal and enthusiastic body of men, who, dur-

ing the last few months, have shown very clearly that they possess the confidence and esteem of the different communities in which they are the representatives of the Bank.

In the fresh start which we are making, all this will count very heavily in our favor. The staff will, I am sure. turn again to their duties with the relief of knowing the exact position of the Bank, while the Shareholders will, I trust feel that with ordinary good fortune the value of their property should increase considerably during the next few years. And in order that this may be the case, I trust that the individual Shareholders, who are the owners of this property, will continue in the future to do all that they can to assist their Bank. Remember that you are the owners, we are only the Managers. And I, therefore, wish to make it a personal request to every one of the Bank's Shareholders that they will in every legitimate way promote the interests of their own Bank. That they do, as far es possible, their own banking business with us may I hope, be taken for granted. But in many ways, direct and indirect, the influence which our Shareholders have in their different localities may often be of great advantage to the Bank I hope that this influence will always be used in our favor, and that the Shareholders will feel it their duty to join hands with the officers of the Bank in helping on in every way the progress of their own institution.

President's Remarks in Moving the Adoption of the Report.

You have heard the Report of the Directors, in which is embodied the report of the General Manager, and it is now my duty to move the adoption of this Report.

It may seem to some of you that it is expressed in very formal and cold-blooded language, but the Report, as you will understand, is the document in which the actual facts are recorded. For myself personally I wish to express to you my very sincere regret that it should have been necessary to lay this report before you, but with the facts as they are we had absolutely no alternative. I can only hope that the progress which we confidently expect to make during the next few years will, in course of time, repay you all for the losses which you have made.

It may be thought by some that our valuations have been too drastic, but I unhesitatingly affirm that not one dollar has been treated as bad or doubtful that we do not honestly believe to be so. The basis of valuation has been that where we have no security whatever, and little or no prospect of recovering the debt, we have considered it bad and written it off. Where there is inadequate security, and doubt as to the success of the particular business or venture upon which the security is based, or where the market price is at present against us, we have considered it doubtful and placed it in Contingent Account. There is no doubtful and placed it in Contingent Account.

THE CHRONICLE.

789

in my mind at all that with an improvement of values and an easing of money a considerable proportion of the money that had been placed in Contingent Account will be ultimately recovered, but we should be misleading you if at the present moment we did not provide for the worst.

Owing to the lack of time and the necessity for ensuring that the information did not become known outside, and used to the disadvantage of the shareholders at large, we have not printed this report, but have had only a few copies typewritten. It will, however, be printed as quickly as possible and a copy sent to each shareholder.

as possible and a copy sent to each shareholder.

I now beg to move the adoption of the Report, which will be seconded by the Vice-President, Mr. Macdonald. Before, however, the question is put to the meeting the General Manager will say a few words.

Vice-President's Remarks.

In seconding the Report which has been submitted to us, I feel very keenly the unfortunate position in which we find the Bank to be. As former President of the Bank, I do not wish for one moment to evade any responsibility.

When Mr. Holt resigned the position of President, I was very loath to assume the President's duties, preferring to the necessary Bank training and having large contracts of my own to carry on, could not devote the time needed. However, the Board desired that I take the position, and ever since then have devoted as much of my time as I possibly could to looking after the affairs of the Bank, and have faithfully and honestly endeavored to carry on the work to make it a successful institution. It was found, however, that having the Executive office in Montreal, and the General Manager residing there most of the time, it was impossible to give that constant supervision to the affairs of the Bank that was necessary, and it is only fair to myself and the Directors to say that many large loans were made and accounts opened without my knowledge or the knowledge of the Directors, and in some cases it was months afterwards before we became aware of them.

Our late General Manager was so successful in organizing the Bank, and had succeeded in getting such a large amount of business, that the Board and myself naturally placed a great deal of confidence in him, and, apart from a considerable depreciation in our securities, which we naturally expected, did not realize the position until a full investigation was made by the present General Manager.

I have gone over the figures presented by the new Executive, and embodied in the report, and I second the adoption of that report, yet I believe and hope that the accounts will prove very much better than the reports would indicate, and with the present excellent organization, and healthy business, with such a large amount of deposits, I confidently believe that we will be able to realize a large share of the accounts which the present Management have considered it necessary to take. It is, however, good business now, when we are, as it were, cleaning the slate, to provide for every possible loss. This, I feel sure, has been done, and, as I stated before, although I think they have made more provision for Bad Debts than is necessary, yet it will redound to the credit of the Bank in other years.

In concluding, I can only express again my regret that the statement was not more satisfactory. But, with the active, energetic and business-like President, who has a banking training, and with the careful, assiduous, and able General Manager, whom we have been so fortunate as to secure, the Sovereign Bank will now take its place as one of the most prosperous and leading banks of the country.

The following Board of Directors was elected:—President, Aemilius Jarvis: Vice-President, Randolph Macdonald: Archibald Campbell, M.P., Hon, D. McMullen, Hon, Peter McLaren, W. K. McNaught, M.P. A. E. Dyment, M.P., and Alexander Bruce, KC.

JE JE

Mr. W. B. Meikle, general manager of the Western Assurance Co., who has been visiting the British branch of the Company in London, England, for some weeks, was the recipient of a testimonial on the 24th May from the staff of that office. This was a token of appreciation of the cordial relations which always existed between Mr. Meikle and themselves, and at the same time expressed their gratification at his promotion to the general managership of the company.

LIFE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION.

The Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association held a meeting in Montreal yesterday, which is being continued to-day. Among those present are:

being continued to-day. Among those present are:
Messrs. David Burke, Royal Victoria Life Ins.
Co., President; Thos. Bradshaw, Imperial Life, Secretary; Hon. Geo., A. Cox, Canaoa Life; T. B. Macaulay, Sun Life; A. B. Woods, Sun Life; B. Hal Brown, Past President, London & Lancashire Life; A. R. Howell, Royal; Sergeant P. Stearns, Equitable; J. Kavanagh, Metropolitan; L. Goldman, North American Life; Col. Macdonald, Confederation; F. Sanderson, Canada Life; P. C. H. Papps, Manufacturers; Thos. Hilliard, Past President, Dominion Life; Jno. Milne, Northern Life; C. H. Fuller, Continental; T. H. Christmas, Aetna; D. M. McGoun, Standard Life; A. McDougald, Pelican; E. Marshall, Excelsior; J. G. Richter, London Life; Geo. Wegenast, Mutual Life of Canada; J. H. Brock, Great West Life.

A luncheon was given to the visiting officers at the St. James Club yesterday, to which in addition to the gentlemen above named invitations were sent to Mr. Geo. Caverhill, President of the Board of Trade; W. M. Ramsay, ex-President of the Association, and Director of the Standard Life; and Mr. R. Wilson Smith.

mitn.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND statement of a week ago was as follows:

	The week	Prev. week	Last year.
Circulation	£29.043 000	£28,822,000	£28.990,000
Public deposits		10,690,000	8,578,000
Private deposits		42,353,000	44,584,000
Govt. securities		15,321,000	15,977,000
Other securities		30,733 000	32,041,000
Prop. of res. to liab		46 82%	43 24%
Bullion	34,775,000	35,237,000	33,565,000
Reserve	24,181,000	24,864,000	23,025,000
Bank rate	4%	4%	4%

The proportion of the Bank's reserve to liability for the week was 46.90 per cent., as compared with 46.82 per cent. for the preceding week. The rate of discount of the Bank of England remained unchanged at 4 per cent.

MONTREAL PARK & ISLAND RAILWAY COMPANY

LACHINE.-From Post Office 20 min. service, 5.40 a.m to 8.00 p.m., 30 min. service, 8 00 p.m. to midnight. From Lachine 20 min. service, 5.50 a.m. to 8.45 p.m., 30 min. service, 8.45 pm. to 12.45 midnight. SAULT AU RECOLLET. -First car From St. Denis St. 5.20 a.m. From St. Denis and Henderson Station, 20 min. service, 5.40 a.m. to 9.40 a.m.; 40 min. service, 9.40 a.m. to 3.40 p.m.; 20 min. service 5.40 p.m. to 8.20 p.m.; 40 min. service, 8.20 p.m. to 12.20 midnight. Last car from the Sault, 12.40 a.m.; from St. Denis, a.m. Extra car from Chenneville St, to Henderson Station a, 6.10 p.m. MOUNTAIN.-From Mount. Royal Avenue. 20 min. service, 5.40 a.m. to 11.40 p.m. From Victoria Avenue, Westmount, 20 min. service, 5.50 a.m. to 11.50 p.m.; CARTIERVILLE .- From Snowdon's Junction, 40 min, service, 6.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. From Cartierville, 40 min, service, 5.40 a.m. to 11.40 p.m.

FIRE

LIFE

MARINE

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Commercial Union Assurance Co.

Capital Fully ubscribed. \$12,500,000 Life Fund (in special trust for Life Policy Holders), 15.675.315 Total Annual Income, exceeds 15 000 000 : : 60,000,000 Total Funds, exceed . 590,000 Deposit with Dominion Government exceeds

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Gapital and Accumulated Funds, . . \$47,410,000
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GEO. E. DRUMMOND, Esq., F. W. THOMPSON, Esq.

JAMES CRATHERN, Esq. SIR ALEXANDER LACOSTE

J. GARDNER THOMPSON, Resident Manager WM. JACKSON, Deputy Manager.

J. W. BINNIE, Assistant Deputy Manager

SUN LIFE Assurance Company of Canada

Cash Income from Premiums, Interest, \$6,212,615,02 Surplus earned during 1906, . \$ 921,721,34 Of which there was distributed to policy-Increase over 1905 . 495,122.79 holders entitled to participate that year 208.658.97 And set aside to place reserves on all policies issued since December 31st, 1902, on the 3 per cent. basis
Surplus over all liabilities and capital (according to the Hm. Table, with 3½ and 3% interest) Assets as at 31st December, 1906 . 24,292,692.65 Increase over 1905 . . 2.983.307.83 207.763.51 Death Claims, Matured Endowments, Profits and other payments to Policy-holders during 1906, 1,980,855.52 2,225,247.45 Payments to Policy-holders since organi-Assurances in torce December 31,1906, 102,566,398.10 zation . 15,099,223.87 . . .

Head Office, - - Montreal

The Ontario Accident Insurance Company

HEAD OFFICE: Eastmure & Lightbourn Building, TORON1O, ONT. BRANCH OFFICES: British Empire Building, MONTREAL, and LONDON, ENG.

CAPITAL:

Authorized, \$500,000.00 Subscribed, \$105,050.00 Paid up in Cash, \$51,420.00

 Reserve and Contingent Funds (1905),
 \$81,00000

 Deposit with Dominion Government,
 42,232.00

 Premium Income (1905),
 252,421.66

 Claims Paid (1905)
 118,639.57

Vice-President, W. H. PEARSON. ribcd, \$105,050.00
A20,000
Sign s \$81,00000
Personal Accident (on all popular plans); Disease and Sign s Sign s Elevator, Sign s Sign s

Sickness (Limited and Unlimited); Employers, Elevator, Teams; Merchants, Contingent, Vessel, Theatre, Ice (Sidewalk), Signs (Advertising) and General Liability; Workmen's Collective Property Damage.

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(3) Because its policy-holders are eminently well satisfied with the results realized under their policies.
(4) Because the general public is beginning to find out the good things the Company has in store for its policy-holders are more than customers—they are co-partners in the Company—sharing equitably in all its benefits.

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and a quarter of each business der of a
hours each, and, in amount, 10973 a
minute the year through."

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412 per day in number of claims

6,163 day in number of Policies

\$1,320,403.09 per day in New Insurance placed and poid for.

\$138, 209. J9 per day Payments to Policyholders and addition to Baserys. \$81,465 58 per day in Increase of

It exceeds by two millions the entire population of the Dominion of Canada. Nearly three hundred thousand Canadians of a'l thousand Canadians of al'l classes are policy-holders in the Metropolitian. It has on deposit with the Gov-ernment of the Dominion of Canada, in Canadian securities, dollar for dollar of its Canadian liabilities. In yé it here in Canada wrote as much new insu-rance as any two other life insurance companies Canadian, English or Ame rican.

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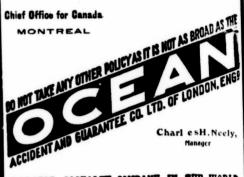
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Total..... \$250,533.33 The above Securities have a cash market value of \$267,172.40

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Montreal, May 15, 1906.

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