

The Chronicle

Insurance & Finance.

R. WILSON-SMITH,

Proprietor.

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A Minor's Responsibility.

If a minor gives a note to pay the premium on his life policy the note has no legal value. A minor may contract for life insurance, may surrender it, or otherwise deal with it, but a note given by him for a premium payment is worthless.

Not Free From Blame.

A dry goods company in Sioux City is being sued for damages caused by a fire in that city, for which the company is held responsible. The fire was caused by the lighted head of a match flying off and lighting on a pile of cotton batting which burst into a flame that led to a conflagration. The possibility of a match starting a fire in this way should be considered by those in charge of inflammable goods. "No smoking allowed here," is an excellent motto for a store, or warehouse. Whoever struck a match close to a pile of cotton batting and whoever allowed this to be done were both highly blameable.

Equitable Life Letter To Policy-Holders.

The chairman of the Directors' Committee for investigating the Equitable Life has written the sub-joined letter, dated 28th April, 1905:—

"To the Policy-holders of the Equitable Life Assurance Society:

"The members of the Investigating Committee have received a large number of letters from policy-holders making inquiries as to the solvency of the society, and in many cases desiring to know the sums already paid to the society as premiums on policies were endangered or lost. The work of investigation, to be of value, must be done thoroughly. To do it thoroughly will necessarily take time. The committee is not ready to make its report, and cannot at this time anticipate its report.

"In view of these inquiries from policy-holders, it seems proper for the committee to state that the interest of every policy-holder is absolutely safe.

The assets of the society are in its possession. They have been examined in detail by the Insurance Commissions of many States. They are absolutely sound. Indeed, one of the criticisms of the society's management has been that in its investments it has been conservative to the point of not realizing a sufficiently high rate of interest on its funds.

"If the investigation should substantiate the gravest charges made by anyone against the society it would simply mean that in the past the society had not realized all that it might possibly have realized under a different management of its affairs. There are no charges made which, if true, would diminish the society's assets.

"The integrity of every one of the society's contracts is absolutely unimpaired. It might be well in this connection to add that while assessment societies, and fraternal organizations require the constant addition of new risks to meet their obligations on old ones, the Equitable, like all of the old line companies, could meet in full all of its maturing policies, even if it never wrote another dollar of insurance.

"The Investigating Committee, commencing Monday, May 1, will hold daily sessions until its work is completed.

(Signed) "H. C. FRICK,
"Chairman."

A Significant Precaution.

An automobile built for the king has been provided with a full set of surgical instruments, bandages and other appliances, also a medicine chest, and a set of machinist's tools. The danger of accident must be imminent that has to be so carefully provided for. Whoever heard of a private vehicle, or a public one carrying a surgical kit as an equipment? Tools needed for such accidents as all carriages are liable to were usually carried in coaches, diligences, etc., in earlier years, as is shown by an incident in Sterne's "Sentimental Journey" and other narratives, true and fictitious. But the automobile is the first to be equipped with the needful appliances for treating dangerous wounds, etc.

LIFE INSURANCE IN CANADA, 1904.

The tables in our last and in this issue compiled from the Preliminary Report of the superintendent of insurance gives a complete exhibit of the life insurance business in Canada last year.

The 20 Canadian companies, without exception, show an increase of premiums for the year, the total was \$11,959,100 against \$10,882,650 in 1903, the additional amount being \$1,076,450, an increase of very close upon to per cent.

The growth of the Canadian companies in recent years appears from the following:—

	Premiums for year.	Increase in year.	Net amount in force.	Increase in year.
1904.....	11,959,100	1,076,450	364,640,166	29,001,226
1903.....	10,882,650	834,446	335,638,940	27,436,344
1902.....	10,048,204	914,314	308,202,696	23,517,975
1901.....	9,133,890	*239,515	284,684,621	17,533,535
1900.....	9,373,405	1,568,231	267,151,086	14,949,370
1899.....	7,805,174	674,977	252,201,716	24,607,200
Increase since 1899.....	\$ 4,153,926	.....	\$112,438,450	.....
Increase per cent.....	53.2%	.....	44.5%	.....

*Decrease.

The sudden enlargement in 1900 may be attributed to the tide of prosperity which began to flow over the Dominion after 1897 when the long continued depression began to disappear and to engender a very sanguine spirit as the improvement showed signs of continuance.

The British companies during the same period, 1890 to 1904, had the following record:

	Premiums for year.	Increase in year.	Net amount in force.	Increase in year.
1904.....	1,473,514	38,197	42,601,715	474,455
1903.....	1,435,317	20,044	42,127,260	577,015
1902.....	1,415,273	68,607	41,556,245	1,340,059
1901.....	1,346,666	d. 25,689	40,216,186	730,842
1900.....	1,372,355	96,126	39,485,344	1,459,396
1899.....	1,276,229	65,628	38,025,948	1,419,753
Increase 1904 over 1899... \$	197,285	.....	\$ 4,575,767	.....

The exhibit made by the British companies, as a whole, is materially affected by five of them having entirely withdrawn from the Canadian field, and others writing less business in 1904 than six years ago. The four companies who are in active operation increased their aggregate premium income for the year in 1904 over 1899 by \$224,049, of which \$41,537 was the increase of 1904 over 1903.

The American companies show as follows for year 1899 to 1904:—

	Premiums for year.	Increase in year.	Net amount in force.	Increase in year.
1904.....	6,536,710	614,413	180,631,886	9,955,086
1903.....	5,922,297	308,214	170,676,800	11,623,336
1902.....	5,614,083	904,785	159,053,464	20,185,237
1901.....	4,709,298	448,117	138,868,227	14,434,811
1900.....	4,261,181	304,877	124,433,416	10,490,207
1899.....	3,957,304	280,814	113,943,209	8,275,055
Increase since 1899.....	\$2,579,406	.....	\$ 66,688,677	.....
Increase per cent.....	65.1%	.....	58.5%	.....

The Canadian companies carry off the palm for the greatest increase last year and in the period since 1898, but the American companies show the highest increase per cent. in that series of years. Last year these two groups, however, ran each other very close in the percentage of increase in premiums for the year.

Taking the returns of the life insurance companies altogether the figures for 1904 show a gratifying enlargement of the business.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ASSURANCE CORPORATION.

The Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation submitted its 24th annual report to the general meeting held in London, England, on 2nd March last.

The company was in operation some years before the Workmen's Compensation Act was passed which greatly enlarged the scope of accident insurance and its peculiar risks. The opening for new forms of accident business created by this Act led to quite a number of new companies being established, the data for the successful working of which was not available. The data available was rendered an unsafe guide, for the new Act altered such conditions as were in existence and created new ones which disturbed the calculations of all who were engaged in the business.

The same phenomena appeared as in Germany, viz., that accidents, or what were claimed to be accidents, had largely increased since the Compensation Act was passed. In six years the number of claims per 100 of accidents rose from 26.75 to 44.92 per cent., that is, whereas one in 4 accidents became the basis of a claim in the first year, it is now one in 2. This new development caused several companies to collapse and others were badly crippled. The Employers' Liability had its time of disappointment, but its managers were too shrewd and its position was too strong for the company to suffer any serious injury from the new conditions. One of the factors in this, as in some other forms of insurance, is the difficulty of securing "a just verdict according to the evidence" from juries. They allow their sympathy with a complainant who has been injured to blind them to the merits of his claim for compensation.

The company is somewhat hampered by the prospect of new legislation which is expected to still further increase the cost of settling the permanent disablement claims, the average of which rose from \$275 up to December, 1901, up to December, 1902, to \$300, to December, 1903, to \$335, and up to December, 1904, \$375.

Despite these unfavourable conditions the company had a premium income last year of \$3,193,685, which is \$1,700 more than in 1903. To this sum

was added \$147,535 received for interest, transfer fees, etc. The balance of the year's account was \$2,641,600, out of which dividends were paid and declared equal to 17½ per cent. on the paid-up capital. The sum of \$2,510,350 is left to be carried forward to next year.

At the annual meeting the chairman, Lord Claud Hamilton, said: "In 1882, our reserves, including reserves for outstanding losses, were \$61,260, or 34 per cent. of the premium income, in 1897 the figure was \$1,363,575, in 1903, \$2,958,215, whereas in the present account, 1904, after paying this year's dividend, the reserves are 105 per cent. of the premium income."

The business in the Dominion is expanding most satisfactorily under the energetic management of Mr. Richard I. Griffin, Montreal, and Mr. C. W. I. Woodland, Toronto. The premium income in Canada rose from \$285,715 in 1903, to \$302,622, with every prospect of continuous enlargement as the Employers' Liability Corporation is growing in public confidence.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S REPORT, 1904.

The business transacted by the post-offices of a country responds automatically to its general business conditions. It reflects also the social and educational status of the people, as well as the extent of their relationships with those in foreign countries. The correspondence kept up by the British troops in South Africa with their relatives and friends in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and West Indies was incomparably larger than what has been dispatched from the Russian troops in Manchuria, which, indeed has been so very trifling as to have had no such special arrangements for being forwarded as were made in South Africa.

It is highly creditable to the Honorable Mr. Mulock, Postmaster-General, that he has energetically devoted himself to the task of facilitating postal communications with Great Britain and foreign countries, and the extension of postal services in Canada. The accompanying table shows

the number of post-offices in operation in each Province, also the estimated number of letters and other articles posted in the Dominion in the last fiscal year.

The following statement shows how greatly the number of letters posted has expanded in past years:

Year.	Letters posted.	Year.	Letters posted.
1868.....	18,100,000	1893.....	106,290,000
1873.....	34,579,000	1896.....	116,028,000
1878.....	44,000,000	1898.....	134,975,000
1883.....	62,800,000	1903.....	.....
1888.....	80,200,000	1904.....	273,905,000
Post cards.		Post cards.	
1876.....	4,646,000	1896.....	24,794,000
1886.....	15,109,000	1900.....	27,130,000
1896.....	24,794,000	1904.....	27,178,000

In the last six years the total number of letters posted has more than doubled, and since 1897 the increase has been from 123,830,000 to 273,905,000, the increase in that period having been over 120 per cent.

The number of letters per head posted in Canada last year was 50—assuming the population to be 5,500,000—as compared with 24 per head in 1897, 16 per head in 1886, and 5.37 in 1868.

The number of post-offices has been increasing rapidly, their numbers were, in 1868, 3,638; in 1878, 5,378; in 1888, 7,671; in 1898, 9,282, and in 1904 10,460. The increase has been to a considerable extent caused by the new settlements in the Northwest, where a post-office is one of the earliest necessities. There is now a post-office in Canada for each 526 of the population which must be admitted to be a very liberal allowance. To yield such an average there must be a large number of places with a smaller population than 527 where there is a post-office. The country will not begrudge the expenses of so scattered a service, for a post-office is a primary element in any civilized community and in the Northwest is especially required to mitigate the discomfort of being so isolated.

The financial record of the Post-Office Department in recent years is remarkable. The report for 1904 only begins at 1896, for reasons we need not dilate upon. We present a statement which begins at an earlier date:

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF LETTER, ETC., POSTED IN CANADA DURING THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1904.

Province.	P. O.'s open.	Letters.	Post Cards.	Registered Letters.	Free Letters.	3rd Class Matter.		Packets open to nation.	Closed parcels.
						1 c. per 2 oz.	1 c. per 4 oz.		
Ontario.....	3,392	125,066,000	17,388,000	2,732,000	6,060,000	8,220,000	2,963,000	2,631,000	23,132
Quebec.....	1,989	56,143,000	4,387,000	1,381,000	1,133,000	8,287,000	1,306,000	645,000	10,389
Nova Scotia.....	1,836	18,088,000	1,514,000	435,000	429,000	1,431,000	294,800	219,000	3,823
New Brunswick.....	1,272	11,948,000	1,100,000	271,000	256,000	2,244,000	354,800	170,000	1,869
P. E. Island.....	426	2,350,000	158,000	57,000	53,000	324,000	34,900	22,000	65
Brit. Columbia.....	406	16,637,000	817,000	411,000	306,000	1,697,000	328,000	142,000	6,625
Manitoba & N.W.	1,139	29,958,000	1,814,000	699,000	582,000	4,006,000	406,000	205,000	6,528
Totals.....	10,460	259,190,000	27,178,000	5,986,000	8,819,000	45,209,000	5,588,100	4,034,000	52,442

Year.	Revenue \$	Expenditure. \$	Deficit. \$	Surplus. \$
1868	1,024,710	1,053,570	28,859	....
1878	1,620,022	2,110,365	490,343	....
1888	2,751,139	3,533,397	782,258	....
1899	4,686,650	4,734,252	47,602	....
1898	4,325,432	4,724,349	398,917	....
1900	4,345,823	4,80,484	461,661	....
1901	+3,421,192	+3,837,376	413,183	....
1902	+3,888,126	+3,883,016	.....	5,109
1903	+4,366,127	+3,970,859	.....	395,268
1904	+4,652,324	+4,347,540	.....	304,783

+ The figures of revenue and expenditure for 1901 to 1904 are each net, but gross in earlier years.

The decrease in revenue in 1899 and afterwards was caused by the reduction in the Imperial letter rate from 5 to 2 cents on 25th December, 1898, and by the reduction on 1st January, 1899, in the domestic letter rate from Canada to United States.

For the 34 years from 1868 to 1901, the Post-Office had had an average yearly deficit of \$498,400, the gross, aggregate deficit of the postal service having been over \$17,000,000, which helped to enlarge the public debt so far as to entail, in itself, an annual cost for interest of about \$500,000.

To have made the Post-Office Department yield such a revenue as is stated in the Postmaster-General's Report for 1904 is a highly creditable display of financial administration. We, however, do not advocate the Post-Office being made a revenue earning department like the Customs and Excise, but would prefer any surplus of revenue over expenditure being devoted to extensions, improvements and higher wages to the letter carriers, etc.

We are glad to read that the Department has arranged for Canadian newspapers to be sent to the following parts of the Empire at the same rates of postage as apply when the papers are sent from place to place within Canada, viz., the United Kingdom, the West Indies, British Guiana, New Zealand, Newfoundland, Transvaal, Hong-Kong, and many other colonies.

The Postmaster-General will do Canada another great service if he succeeds in securing lower rates for the postage of English periodicals to this country.

THE CITY AND DISTRICT SAVINGS BANK.

The City and District Savings Bank's 58th Annual Report evidences the business to have been considerably enlarged. The deposits last year rose from \$15,302,061 to \$16,643,365, an increase of \$1,341,304, which is a larger sum than was added in 1903. The number of open accounts at close of last year was 74,487 as against 69,487 the previous year, no fewer than 5,000 new accounts having been opened in 1904 and material additions made to large number of them. The average amount due to each depositor also increased, in 1904, it was \$222.44 as compared with \$220.29 the year before. This average is liable to fluctuations

caused by a few deposits of exceptionally large amounts, being made, or withdrawn, but the average of the yearly averages for some years having been about \$220 due each depositor, with a general tendency upwards, shows how steady is the confidence of the thrifty classes in this old and strong institution, and indicates also that those classes are enlarging their accumulations. In 1898 the average due to each depositor was \$195.98, their number being 51,526, whereas in 1904 the average due each one of 74,487 depositors was \$222.24. The increase in number of depositors since 1898 has been 44.66 per cent., which so far exceeds the increase of population as to afford ground for the belief that the practice of thrift is on the increase in this city.

The stability of this bank is too obvious to need remark. The cash on hand, at call and other assets immediately available, consisting largely of the highest class of securities, exceed the deposits. Under the presidential oversight of Sir William Hingston and the expert management of Mr. Lesperance the City and District is growing in strength and public favour.

THE LATE MR. GEORGE GOODERHAM.

Toronto has lost one of its best known and most highly respected citizens by the death of Mr. George Gooderham, who passed away at his home on the 1st inst. He was a son of the late William Gooderham, who founded the Bank of Toronto, of which he was president for many years. From his father he inherited a considerable fortune and a capacity for business, which was exercised to the eminent advantage of a number of institutions of which he was president, or director. He was a director of the General Trusts Company and of the Canada Permanent, president of the Bank of Toronto, and president of the Manufacturers' Life Insurance Company. To the latter institution he rendered inestimable service.

He took a very active interest in yachting, his boat, the "Canada," having won the international championship at Toledo in 1896. Of the Jockey Club and Hunt Club he was a prominent supporter. He was a trustee of the General Hospital, a Senator of Toronto University, president of the College of Music, member of the Toronto Club, the Albany Club and St. James' Club, Montreal. Mr. Gooderham was reputed to be the wealthiest person in Ontario. After spending the winter in the South he returned home some weeks ago, all too soon, for the cold brought on a renewed attack of bronchitis from which he had been suffering. He was offered a Senatorship by Sir Charles Tupper, in 1896, but declined the honour, as he declined other distinctions of a public character, being content to devote his marked abilities and great energy to the service of the numerous institutions with which he was associated.

QUERIES' COLUMN.

In order to furnish our readers with information we propose to devote this column to replies to correspondents. Letters should be addressed to "THE CHRONICLE, Enquiry Department, Montreal."

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

1439.—O. O. C., Vancouver.—The Sao Paulo Tramway Light and Power Company's year ends 31st December. For the year ending 31st December, 1904, the net earnings after deducting firm charges, were \$648,000.66. The company now pays 8 p.c. per annum in quarterly payments of 2 p.c. each. The meeting held on 25th April was the fourth annual meeting of the company. The earnings for the four years are as follows:—

	Gross	Operat'g expenses	Net income
1901	\$ 749,676	\$468,719	\$262,957
1902	1,123,285	417,916	705,369
1903	1,303,175	403,748	899,427
1904	1,419,338	477,556	941,782

* * * *

1440.—D. O. H., Quebec.—The par value of the shares of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company is \$25 each. The highest for the stock was 520 p.c. in April, 1902. The company now pays quarterly dividends of 2½ p.c. or 10 p.c. per annum..

* * * *

1441.—K. T. N., Winnipeg.—Was not the capital stock of the Ottawa Fire Insurance Company reduced either by Act of Parliament or by rate of the shareholders?

Answer. The above company last year obtained a special Act from the Dominion Parliament authorizing it to write off a portion of its capital, which, originally, was as follows:

Capital subscribed, \$500,000; capital paid up, \$100,000. A call of 30 p.c., amounting to \$150,000 was made on the stockholders, after the Toronto and Baltimore conflagrations last year, which increased the paid-up capital to \$250,000. On the 31st December, 1904, the position of the company was as follows:

Capital subscribed, \$250,000; capital paid up, \$100,000. Total assets, \$219,902. Total liabilities (not including \$100,000 capital stock) \$126,719.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.

The Toronto agency of the Society has been taken over by Mr. T. H. Mason and Mr. John A. Shaw, the firm name being Mason & Shaw, with offices at No. 38 Wellington St. East, Mr. Alex. Dixon having retired.

BANK DIVIDENDS.

The following dividends have been declared for rates and payable on dates as follows:—

	Rate of divid'd. per cent.	When payable.	Annual Meeting.
Bank of Montreal.....	5	1st June	.....
Canadian B'k of Commerce	3½	"	.....
Merchants Bank.....	3½	"	21st June
Bank of Toronto.....	5	"	.....
Imperial Bank.....	5	"	21st June
Standard Bank.....	5	"	21st June
Bank of Ottawa.....	4½	"	.....
Quebec Bank.....	3½	2nd June	5th June
Bank of Hamilton.....	5	1st June	.....
Union Bank.....	3½	"	2nd June 19th June
Ontario Bank.....	3	1st June	20th June
Traders Bank.....	3½	"	"
Banque d'Hochelega.....	3½	"	.....
Sovereign Bank.....	1¼, ½ly	15th May	.....
Banque de St. Jean.....	3 per cent.	2nd June	.....

PROMINENT TOPICS.

THE STRIKE AT CHICAGO.—Scenes are being enacted at Chicago which are a scandal to civilization. Civic government is practically suspended when an irresponsible body of men are allowed to interfere with the free intercourse of citizens with the merchants, and those engaged in transportation services, both passengers and freight, are under the control of men who have no direct interest in such classes of business. The conditions now existing in Chicago are, in some respects, those which are imposed when a city is placed in a state of siege, the vital difference, however, being that a state of siege is regulated by constituted authorities in the interests of law and order, whereas, in Chicago, the interests of law and order are set openly at defiance in the interests of those who constitute a riotous mob. When a military force is engaged in maintaining a state of siege the ordinary traffic is merely regulated in order to protect citizens who desire to conduct their business and social affairs peacefully. In Chicago the movements of the business and social life of the city are being violently obstructed. Chicago will have a heavy bill to pay for damages done by the rioters, and its reputation and credit cannot fail to suffer severely from the failure of its authorities to afford adequate protection to business interests. Anarchy is a deadly foe to prosperity.

* * * *

PROPOSAL TO HAVE SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS ELECTED.—A movement is afoot to change the plan in vogue in this city under which the school-commissioners are appointed. It is proposed to have all these officials elected at the same time and by the same constituency as the members of the City Council, one commissioner to be elected by each ward. A bill to this effect will probably be laid before the Provincial Legislature, but the details have not

been published. There is an old and wise saying, "Let well enough alone," which applies to this matter, for the present system has given such general satisfaction that it has never been attacked. From an educational standpoint, we are unable to see what could be gained by the proposed change. It is certainly desirable that the clergy should be well represented on the Board of School Commissioners, as they now are, because they are eminently suited for the office by their training and experience and character. It is a matter for consideration whether a popular election would result in commissioners being appointed more highly qualified than those who have hitherto served in this very honourable and responsible office. Under the present system three protestant aldermen are elected as school commissioners by the City Council. When they were candidates for a seat in the City Council their qualifications for the position of school commissioner were not considered. It is open then to discussion whether a better selection would be made by the electors at large than is usually made by the City Council from its own members.

It is not desirable that the Board of School Commissioners should be periodically made up of members without experience in the office. While occasional changes may be serviceable, yet, as a rule, the efficiency of school administration necessitates continuity of system. Frequent alterations in the personnel and methods of a school injuriously obstruct the progress of the pupils. A school Board cannot be as efficient as is desirable unless some of its members have had years of experience as commissioners. It is not the intention to disturb the system of having Catholic representatives on the Catholic School Board and Protestants on the Protestant Board.

* * * *

TRUST AND INSURANCE COMPANIES.—The new Premier of Quebec, the Hon. Mr. Gouin, is much to be commended for using his influence with Private Bills Committee in regard to the provisions under which new insurance companies may be incorporated. The Committee has decided that the Bill of no insurance company shall be approved unless it provides for a paid-up capital of at least \$25,000, and a special deposit made with the Provincial Treasurer of a sum fixed by Order-in-Council, which will probably be \$25,000.

This is in accordance with the views and wishes of the Council of the Board of Trade. Credit is due to Mr. A. G. B. Claxton for his services in urging this policy upon the Private Bills Committee before which he appeared armed with a petition and letters from the principal insurance companies opposing the various attempts to obtain charters for

companies to transact all kinds of insurance on a paid-up capital of from \$5,000 to \$10,000 with making any deposits with the Government. A larger paid-up capital would have been more desirable, but the decision of the Quebec Government is a step in the right direction.

* * * *

THE HARBOUR BOARD.—The Harbour commissioners have doubtless a trying task in endeavouring to reconcile the various interests they directly or indirectly represent, which, at times, are apt to be conflicting. The views of some members of the Board are also apt to be contrary to those of other members. There are men who are naturally in opposition, they delight in being contrary to their fellows. Whether this class is represented on the Harbour Board we do not pretend to say, but, that there is an inordinate, a most unbusiness-like amount of disputation at the meetings is only too well known. The chairman seems to hold the reins too loosely. Were the daily papers to cease for a few months to report the proceedings of the Board it is highly probable that the business would make more rapid progress.

* * *

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—We are glad to observe that matters in connection with the Equitable are somewhat toning down. It is a thousand pities that the irritation, and very strong personal feelings amongst the directors and their friends, which seem to have been the cause of all the trouble, was not amicably arranged. Unfortunately, however, interested outsiders took a hand in the controversy and prevented what might, no doubt, have been arranged. That the company is absolutely solvent, even its worst enemies will not question, and the examination which is now being conducted under Mr. Frick, will demonstrate this statement. We shall not be surprised if the whole matter is arranged within the next thirty days at the outside, and that the whole directorate will retire. It would, however, be difficult to conceive of the Equitable without the association of its worthy president, Mr. J. W. Alexander, who, with others, will no doubt act in a similar capacity when the reorganization takes place. In the meantime, it is somewhat surprising to the ordinary public to be informed that the business of the company is larger than it was a year ago, which must be very gratifying to its friends and the agents. Of course, there are any amount of rumours as to who will be president, and several names are mentioned. These are simply all guesses.

It was well remarked to the writer that founder of the Equitable was the greatest living insurance organizer, as is manifested by the marvelous success of the company which he founded. Would

it be too much to expect and hope that his son would not drift from those advisers who have exercised a baneful influence and who, no doubt, are looking more to their own interests than those of the Equitable, and thus show that he is a worthy descendant of his father? The opportunity is now open for Mr. James H. Hyde to do something worthy of his distinguished name, in the interests of and in furtherance of the welfare of the great institution which is, and always will be so closely identified with the honoured memory of his father.

* * * *

C. P. R. AND ITS FUTURE.—During the recent flurry on the Stock Exchanges in New York and elsewhere, it was very gratifying to the friends of the C.P.R. to find how highly its securities are regarded, as was shown by the slight fluctuations which took place in the price of its shares. There are those in well-informed circles who consider that the C.P.R. has a great future, and that those interested in its securities will find them a profitable investment. It may be said to occupy a unique position in many respects. It is the only line which has a direct transport service between Great Britain and the far East, owning ships on the Atlantic and Pacific, the link between which is its line from coast to coast in Canada. It owns very valuable lands. Without taking into consideration those held in British Columbia and other sections, it owns about 13,000,000 acres of selected lands in the Great Northwest, which, even valued at \$5 an acre would amount to \$65,000,000. Within the next five years these lands will be worth a great deal more, and it is not unreasonable to expect that the balance unsold will be worth anywhere from \$10 to \$15, an acre, within the next 15 to 20 years. The outstanding bonds against all these lands have been reduced to \$9,000,000, so that, in addition to the large and increasing earnings of the company, the shareholders will derive benefits from the sales of the above mentioned lands, whether it be in the shape of bonuses or otherwise. In this connection, it may be incidentally mentioned that according to a recent very important decision the lands owned by the C.P.R. will not be subject to taxation until 20 years after the patent, or deed, in connection therewith has been issued.

The total capital stock of the C.P.R. issued up to date amounts to \$101,400,000, and the directors have authority to issue \$8,600,000 more at any time they may deem desirable, which will bring the capital stock up to \$100,000,000. It is not improbable that this \$8,600,000 will be issued in the near future, and as usual we presume the shareholders will get it on the usual terms.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending April 27, 1905—Clearings, \$1,602,172; corresponding week last year, \$1,838,061.

Notes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

MONTREAL CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending May 4, 1905—Clearings, \$27,034,639; corresponding week, 1904, \$20,837,689; corresponding week, 1903, \$25,822,149.

THE MOLSONS BANK have opened a branch at Ste. Therese de Blainville, Que.

THE ACCIDENT UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION will hold a convention at the Royal Muskoka Hotel from July 18 to 21.

THE ACTUARIAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA will hold its annual meeting in New York at the Metropolitan building on 18th and 19th inst.

FOREIGN CATTLE INSURANCE.—A company in Sweden has insurance on 140,855 cattle and 94,383 horses, also on 235,236 sheep and other animals. Its premium receipts last year were \$308,174, and losses \$227,330. The company's title is, "Skandinaviska Kreaturs-Foersaekringsbolageta." Sweden may well be so isolated if that is a fair specimen of its language.

GOOD ADVICE TO FRATERNALS.—At the annual meeting of the Canadian Fraternal Association, Mr. A. Paterson, K.C., said:

"During 1904 25 societies advanced their rates. One of them, the Catholic Knights of America, advanced to a schedule ten per cent higher than the N. F. C. rates, but there are nearly 200 fraternal societies in Canada and the States, and many of these are not advancing their rates as they should. Let all fraternalists list their rates by legitimate, steady work, and not wait for an earthquake. Cyclonic convulsions and seismic disturbances are dangerous, especially when the fields of their operation are within the financial or insurance area."

A GOOD STORY—IF TRUE.—A story is afloat that Mr. Merrill, Massachusetts Insurance Commissioner, when on duty as Major of Militia was attacked by a bull. In avoiding a collision he fell, and a farmer rebuked him for exciting the bull. The Major didn't know what to say for an instant, but finally decided to stand on his dignity, and drawing himself up he said:

"My good man, maybe you don't know who I am. I would have you to understand that I am major of the regiment. I have been commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. I am, sir, the Insurance Commissioner of this glorious Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Hon. George S. Merrill is my name, sir."

The farmer looked on, while the Major related his story, with mouth wide open, and finally said, with a laugh: "Why didn't you tell the bull?"

The above is not original, though it may be fact, as experiences often are duplicated. Mr. Merrill will, no doubt, enjoy the joke, and often tell it too.

AGAINST PROCRASTINATION.—One of the strongest arguments an agent can use against procrastination in taking a life insurance policy is that illustrating the uncertainty of life as evidenced by the numerous policies which become claims before they have been in force a single year. No company can say positively when a risk is accepted that the insured will live to pay a second premium, but

only that the probabilities are in favor of his doing so. We know that of a given number of persons at a certain age so many will die within the year, but the life insurance company does not know, at age thirty-five for instance, whether the latest entrant at that age will die in the year or whether it shall be a long-time policy-holder of that age. In either event the company is prepared to pay the claim, because the plan takes note of the probabilities of life and death for a large enough body of persons to form an average. It is the uncertainty of the duration of life in individual cases which makes life insurance absolutely necessary for the protection of a man's family or business interests. Confidence in one's health and strength, with perhaps an hereditary tendency to long life, may induce some men to believe that they have no need for insurance, but every such claim is specious, and the agent will have little difficulty in citing instances of persons with prospects of long life equally as good who have passed away. Life insurance is a necessity to every man for the protection it affords in case of an early death, and if the life is prolonged there is nothing lost by the transaction in the end.—"The Spectator."

UNPROFITABLE MERCANTILE CLASSES.—The following figures were compiled by the Continental Insurance Company, from its analysis records in an investigation it made to determine unprofitable mercantile classes. The figures are based on the entire business of the company in each class in the United States for eight years. The Baltimore conflagration losses are not included, and the results, therefore, were secured under normal's conditions. The record of each class in each State was investigated, and was found to be unprofitable generally, and not due to sweeping fires at one or two points; again, the figures were not only separated by States, but also into the four sub-divisions of brick protected, brick unprotected, frame protected, and frame unprotected.

EIGHT YEAR RECORD.

BUILDINGS.

Class.	Loss per \$100 insured.	Average rate received.	Rate required for 55 per cent. loss ratio.
Cloak manufacturing.....	.390	.309	.709
Clothing manufacturing.....	1.535	1.232	2.791
Clothing, wholesale.....	.716	.495	.933
Crockery.....	.883	.972	1.605
Department stores.....	1.782	.891	2.331
Dry goods, retail.....	1.176	1.285	2.138
Hay and feed.....	1.224	1.735	2.225
Hats, wholesale.....	1.161	1.306	2.111
Millinery.....	.898	1.465	1.633
Paper.....	2.331	1.096	4.238
Roofing materials.....	1.331	1.55	2.420
Stoves, holloware and castings	.695	1.145	1.254

CONTENTS.

Cloak manufacturing.....	1.076	.991	1.956
Clothing manufacturing.....	.998	1.185	1.815
Clothing, wholesale.....	8.23	9.26	1.505
Crockery.....	.970	1.080	1.764
Department stores.....	1.376	1.177	2.502
Dry goods, retail.....	.873	1.224	1.587
Hay and feed.....	2.082	1.540	3.785
Glassware, glass, window, etc.	1.466	1.625	2.665
Groceries, wholesale.....	.648	.919	1.180
Hats, wholesale.....	.749	7.65	1.362
Laces and embroideries.....	1.053	.810	1.925
Millinery.....	.989	1.314	1.798
Musical inst., pianos, etc.....	.938	1.224	1.705
Notions.....	1.789	1.124	2.145
Paper.....	1.573	.968	2.860
Photographers.....	1.395	1.380	2.536
Paints and oils.....	.872	1.335	1.585
Picture stores.....	.829	.984	1.507
Roofing materials.....	2.438	1.417	1.887
Seeds.....	1.037	1.262	1.885
Stoves, holloware and castings	1.469	1.163	2.671
Toys.....	.674	1.056	1.225
Varnish.....	1.629	1.352	2.962
Wall paper.....	1.592	1.141	2.895

N. Y. "Commercial Bulletin."

PERSONALS.

MR. W. C. J. KING, who has been connected with the Canadian Bank of Commerce for 25 years or more, and occupied several positions in connection therewith, having been during the past five years assistant manager at Montreal, has been appointed manager of the Simcoe Branch. Mr. King, who is an able, conscientious and painstaking official, is followed by the best wishes of the officers and customers of the Canadian Bank of Commerce at Montreal. Mr. F. H. Mathewson speaks in the highest terms of Mr. King's ability and loyalty to the Bank. Mr. A. H. B. Mackenzie, the accountant, will now perform the duties of assistant manager.

MR. FRED W. TAYLOR, who for the past year has been acting as manager of the Chicago agency of the Bank of Montreal, has been appointed acting manager of the London, England, office, to supply the vacancy caused by the falling health of Mr. Lang. Mr. Lang's illness is very deeply regretted by a wide circle of the customers and connections of the Bank of Montreal.

MR. LANSING LEWIS, Canadian manager of the Caledonian Insurance Company, is at present in Edinburgh, Scotland, where he went to attend the Centennial meeting of his company.

MR. B. HAL BROWN, manager for Canada of the London & Lancashire Life Assurance Co., is expected to reach Montreal this week. He sailed from Liverpool by the Oceanic. Mr. Hal Brown has spent some weeks in Great Britain, and during his visit he attended the annual meeting of the London & Lancashire Life, which was held in London a few days ago.

MR. GEORGE HAGUE has returned home after a visit to Lakewood and Atlantic City, where his health was greatly improved.

Correspondence.

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

LONDON LETTER.

London, England, April 20, 1905.

FINANCE.

Writing on Good Friday eve finds the Stock Exchange dull as far as dealings go, but holidayfied as regards feelings. The House, following its habitual usage, closes from Thursday night until next Tuesday morning. This long break is quite in accordance with the easy going ways of the London stockbroker and jobber. He is an inveterate week-ender, and is generally found petitioning the Stock Exchange governing committee for Saturday closings during the summer. All the national holidays are, of course, taken, and every other one that can be squeezed in.

The coming four days' recess is, however, regarded with a good deal of apprehension this year. So much may occur which would influence stocks and shares. There is the pending naval battle in China seas with all that that may mean for or against an early peace, and there is also the erratic condition of American Rails. The successive breaks in Northern securities has helped to disorganize the list here, even Canadas suffering.

The highest figure reached here a couple of weeks ago was 160, and the lowest happened yesterday, when 155½ was touched momentarily. This morning the cabled New

York parity was 157 5-16. This was sufficient for the dealers here to put the buying price up to 157 11-16. This is the general course of Americans here. Rarely does it happen that London does not immediately put prices higher than the overnight New York closing.

Trunks are a mystery. Trunks are usually a mystery nowadays. Every condition which can be tested points to expectations of improvement. The chairman's speech at the meeting, the annual report, the monthly statement, and the weekly traffics are all good, and yet the price steadily sinks away. As I have said before regular bear pools do almost what they like with Trunks here and in Glasgow, and their reign has been long and merciless.

Hudson's Bays are stronger again at round about \$350 per share, but investment attention is being diverted for a time to the easier Canadian land shares. Calgary and Edmonton Lands are especial favourites on the unexpected dividend and the chairman's cheery speech.

The Berlin Bourse authorities have carefully watched the working of the London Stock Exchange, and this year that Bourse will be closed for the same period as London, namely, from Thursday night to Tuesday morning. This has never been done before in Germany, and is a tribute to the admiration which our "House" excites abroad.

There seems to be less apprehension on the Continent than here with regard to the upshot of Rojestvensky's voyage. Even France does not expect a Russian victory. On the other hand French fear of a disaster to Russian credit seems now to be almost out of sight. Paris will practically do nothing during Easter, as this year the Jewish holidays begin to-day, and so practically coincide with the Christian festival. Here there is a definite parting of the ways. Whatever happens in the East there will be practically no European bourses open to be alarmed or enthused.

INSURANCE.

The Alliance Assurance meeting here this week was presided over by Lord Rothschild, and was a very staid and prosperous affair. The loss ratio has been increased from 43½ per cent. to 49½ per cent, mainly owing to the large Canadian fires. The company finished the year with a carry-forward sufficient to pay next year's dividend. This is the office which is reported to be desirous of swallowing up the Westminster, one of the little old and trusted offices whose dignity and white hairs do not save them from ultimate oblivion.

Now that the first quarter of the year is well out of the way the insurance world gets a very fair idea of the way the current of insurance trading moves. Life business gets better and better. New policies multiply on all hands, but despite the creation of new companies there are still crowds of our population still uninsured, or what is the same thing, underinsured.

Fire business is by no means in such a good condition, and some reconsideration of their opinion in this business is being forced upon many important offices. Marine insurance has been considerably complicated by the running down of the Vladivostock blockade runners, but the quarter finished up quieter and better, as I have recorded previously.

An improvement in accident insurance is setting in, and no doubt a good deal of this is due to the painstaking effort on the part of societies like the Ocean. These companies in many cases began by charging rates which were too easy, and then swung round in the other direction. In this way experience, especially in that chronic disturbandist the Workmen's Compensation Act, was acquired. Then it came to a case of reconsideration. The Ocean led the way in shaking off the barnacles, especially in the direction of clearing off the permanent liability claims which threatened to hang over the business like millstones.

STOCK EXCHANGE NOTES.

Wednesday, p.m., May 3, 1905.

Last week saw one day of semi-panic on the New York Stock Exchange, what might be called a "good times break," for the decline in prices and the pressure to sell were caused by artificial conditions quite apart from any question of values or the general financial situation. Of course it has been recognized for some time past that the trading in New York and the advance in prices there had been on account of and caused by, for the greater part, professional speculative cliques and pools. Even admitting this, however, the general prosperity of the country which this movement has been discounting, still leaves room for the conservative expectation of a stronger and higher market in the near future. All good stocks are a fair purchase just now.

* * * *

The local market stood up remarkably well under the strain of the break in New York. The liquidation here was at no time heavy, and prices of the local securities in particular have recovered the greater part of the loss in price. Montreal Power was notably strong, its price held well, and the recovery in it has been good. It is a security that should prove attractive and profitable around its present level.

* * * *

A number of dividends were paid on the 1st of May, and Montreal Power and Twin City are now selling ex-dividend of 1 per cent, and 1¼ per cent, respectively, and these disbursements will be made on the 15th inst. The expected dividend on Lake of the Woods Common will, it is said on good authority, be paid on the 1st of June, and will certainly be 6 per cent. if not 8 per cent. The Common Stock was a little heavy during the past week, and sold down to 103, and around this level a good deal was picked up.

* * * *

The call rate in Montreal remains unchanged for bank money at 4½ per cent. In New York the call rate to-day was 3 per cent., while the rate in London was 2 per cent.

* * * *

The quotations for money at continental points are as follows.—

	Market.	Bank.
Paris.....	2½	3
Berlin.....	2½	3
Amsterdam.....	2½	2½
Vienna.....	2½	3½
Brussels... ..	2½	3

* * * *

The total transactions in C. P. R. this week amounted to 2,072 shares. The stock sold as low as 145 in New York, and touched 146 here. The closing quotation was 148¼ bid, a net loss of 2¾ points for the week, but a recovery of 2¾ points from this week's lowest. There were no sales in the New Stock. New Stock fully paid up can now be exchanged for old scrip, and can then be traded in on the same basis as the old stock. The earnings for the last ten days of April show an increase of \$15,000.

* * * *

In Soo Common only 50 shares changed hands this week, the sale being made at 110½.

* * * *

The Grand Trunk Railway Company's earnings for the last ten days of April show a decrease of \$53,115. The stock quotations as compared with a week ago are as follows:—

	A week ago.	To-day.
First Preference.....	114½	109
Second Preference.....	104½	99½
Third Preference.....	50½	49½

Montreal Street Railway sales totalled 595 shares, and closing bid was 217½, a decline of 1¾ points for the week. The earnings for the week ending 29th ult. show an increase of \$5,909.26, as follows:—

		Increase.
Sunday.....	\$6,015.63	\$ 755.86
Monday.....	7,480.27	1,186.22
Tuesday.....	7,605.31	1,197.31
Wednesday.....	6,009.29	625.51
Thursday.....	7,098.96	607.43
Friday.....	7,202.53	767.00
Saturday.....	7,784.92	769.93

Toronto Railway suffered sharply in the break and sold down to 103½, recovering and closing with 106 bid, a net loss of 2¾ points for the week, and 1,945 shares were traded in. The earnings for the week ending 29th ult. show an increase of \$8,383.13, as follows:—

		Increase.
Sunday.....	\$4,753.01	\$1,515.08
Monday.....	7,774.69	1,706.00
Tuesday.....	7,723.19	1,861.59
Wednesday.....	7,298.00	1,352.92
Thursday.....	7,101.98	725.38
Friday.....	7,155.38	424.13
Saturday.....	8,859.41	818.03

Twin City closed with 110¼ ex-dividend bid, equivalent to a decline of 3¾ points for the week. A fairly active business was done, and 2,715 shares changed hands. The earnings for the third week of April show an increase of \$4,912.90.

There were no transactions in Halifax Tram this week, and the closing quotation was unchanged from a week ago with 103 bid.

Detroit Railway was the most active of the tractions, and 3,905 shares were involved in the week's business. The lowest of the week was 82, and the closing bid was 83, a net loss of 2¼ points for the week. The earnings for the third week of April show an increase of \$6,811.

Toledo Railway closed with 33 bid, a decline of a full point from last week's closing quotation, and 1,685 shares figured in the week's business.

The trading in Mackay Common brought out 775 shares, and the closing bid was 40½, a decline of ½ of a point for the week. The Preferred Stock sales totalled 520 shares, and the closing bid was 72¼, a loss on quotation of 1¼ points for the week.

The sales in Oglivie Preferred this week amounted to 35 shares.

The last sales in Lake of the Woods Common were made at 103, as compared with 108 bid at the close last week, and 465 shares were dealt in. The Preferred Stock sold down to 114, and recovered to 117½, and 210 shares changed hands during the week.

R. & O. closed with 72¼ bid, a decline of 2¼ points for the week on sales of 478 shares.

Montreal Power closed with 89 ex-dividend bid, equivalent to a loss of 1½ points from last week's closing quotation. The stock was fairly active, and 2,819 shares were traded in during the week.

Dominion Iron Common was the most active stock in this week's market, and 4,765 shares changed hands. The stock sold down to 20, recovered and closed with 21¾ bid, a loss of ½ point from last week's closing quotation. The Preferred Stock sold down to 65, and closed with 67½ bid, a loss of 1 full point for the week on sales of 495 shares.

The Bonds sold down to 82 and recovered to 84¼ bid at the close, being a decline of 1 point from last week on sales involving \$69,000.

Dominion Coal Common closed with 79 bid, a gain of ½ point for the week, and a gain of 5 full points from this week's lowest. The total sales involved 460 shares. In the Preferred Stock 1 share changed hands at 117.

Nova Scotia Steel Common sold down to 60¾, and closed with 61¾ bid, a loss of 1¾ points for the week, and 1,142 shares were dealt in. There were no transactions in the Preferred Stock, but in the Bonds \$6,500 changed hands, the last sales being made at 109¼.

	Per cent.
Call money in Montreal.....	4½
Call money in New York.....	3
Call money in London.....	2
Bank of England rate.....	2
Consols.....	90½
Demand Sterling.....	94
60 days' Sight Sterling.....	9

Thursday, p.m., May 4, 1905.

The market to-day was dull, heavy and inactive, and prices declined. Despite the weakness there was little liquidation, however, and the local issues in particular held very firm. The weakness here was induced by the heaviness and declining tendency evident in New York. A list of to-day's sales will be found below.

MONTREAL STOCK EXCHANGE SALES

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1905.

MORNING BOARD.

No. of Shares.	Price	No. of Shares.	Price
25 C.P.R.....	148½	25 Montreal Power....	89¼
125 Dom. Coal.....	79½	15 ".....	89½
25 Dom. Iron Com....	21¼	50 ".....	89¼
25 " Pfd.....	67½	5 ".....	89
50 Toledo Ry.....	33	100 Detroit Ry.	81
10 Lake of Woods Pfd.	118½	25 ".....	82½
75 Mackay Com.....	40½	10 ".....	83
50 ".....	40½	5 Twin City.....	110¾
5 Toronto Ry.....	106	70 Union Bank.....	144¼

AFTERNOON BOARD.

100 C.P.R.....	146¾	50 Scotia Com.....	61¼
25 ".....	147¼	100 Toronto Ry.....	105
25 ".....	147	100 Power.....	89
50 Dom. Iron Com....	21	50 Lk of Woods....	100½
25 Toledo Ry.....	33	25 " Pfd.....	117¼
50 ".....	32¼		

Inspector—The Royal Insurance Company invites applications for the position of Inspector for Ontario, for the Life Department

Communications confidential. Address

SUPERINTENDENT,

ROYAL INSURANCE CO.,

MONTREAL

WANTED—Superintendent for Accident branch, large insurance Agency for Toronto.

APPLY BOX 578,

MONTREAL.

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 1903 and 1904, were as follows :

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY. Table with columns: Year to date, 1903, 1904, 1905, Increase. Rows: Mch. 31, Week ending, April 7, 14, 21, 28.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY. Table with columns: Year to date, 1903, 1904, 1905, Increase. Rows: Mch. 31, Week ending, April 7, 14, 21, 30.

GROSS TRAFFIC EARNINGS. Table with columns: Month, 1903, 1904, 1905, Inc. Rows: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.

Total 15,708,709 13,689,804

CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY.

GROSS TRAFFIC EARNINGS. Table with columns: July 1st, 1902 to June 30, 1903; July 1st, 1903 to June 30, 1904; Increase. Rows: Week ending, April 7, 14, 21, 30.

DULUTH, SOUTH SHORE & ATLANTIC

Table with columns: Week ending, 1903, 1904, 1905, Increase. Rows: April 7, 14.

MONTREAL STREET RAILWAY.

Table with columns: Month, 1903, 1904, 1905, Increase. Rows: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.

Table with columns: Week ending, 1903, 1904, 1905, Increase. Rows: April 7, 14, 21, 30.

TORONTO STREET RAILWAY.

Table with columns: Month, 1903, 1904, 1905, Increase. Rows: January, February, March.

TORONTO STREET RAILWAY.

Table with columns: Month, 1903, 1904, 1905, Increase. Rows: April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.

Table with columns: Week ending, 1903, 1904, 1905, Inc. Rows: April 7, 14, 21, 30.

TWIN CITY RAPID TRANSIT COMPANY.

Table with columns: Month, 1903, 1904, 1905, Inc. Rows: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.

HALIFAX ELECTRIC TRAMWAY CO., LTD.

Railway Receipts.

Table with columns: Month, 1903, 1904, 1905, Inc. Rows: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.

Table with columns: Week ending, 1903, 1904, 1905, Inc. Rows: April 7, 14, 21, 30.

Lighting Receipts.

Table with columns: Month, 1903, 1904, 1905, Inc. Rows: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.

DETROIT UNITED RAILWAY.

Table with columns: Week ending, 1904, 1905, Increase. Rows: April 7, 14, 21.

HAVANA ELECTRIC RAILWAY

Table with columns: Week ending, 1904, 1905, Increase. Rows: April 10.

*Strike. † Spanish Silver.

Subscription Lists will open on 8th May and close on or before 13th May, 1905

The Bank of Montreal, The Canadian Bank of Commerce, and Messrs. Lee, Higginson & Co.

Offer for Subscription the following new Securities of the

Dominion Coal Company, Limited,

\$5,000,000

First Mortgage Five per Cent. Thirty-Five Year Sinking Fund Gold Coupon Bonds.

In denominations of \$500 and \$1,000.

Dated 1st May, 1905; Due 1st May, 1940. Subject to call at 105 and accrued interest after 1st May, 1910. Coupons 1st May and November. PRICE 99 AND ACCRUED INTEREST.

\$3,000,000

Seven per Cent. Cumulative Preferred Stock.

In shares of \$100 each.

Dividends 1st February and August.

PRICE 115 FLAT.

The Preferred Stock will be convertible, at the option of the Holder, at any time up to 1st May, 1910, into a like amount of Common Stock of the Company. After 1st May, 1910, the Preferred Stock is subject to redemption at 125 per cent. and accrued dividends.

These Issues are to retire the Company's present outstanding Bonds and Preferred Stock, and for the general purposes of the Company.

CAPITALIZATION.

Mortgage 5 per cent. Bonds—Total authorized	\$7,000,000	
Held in Treasury	2,000,000	
		\$ 5,000,000
7 per cent. Cumulative Preferred Stock	3,000,000	
Common Stock	15,000,000	

OFFER TO EXCHANGE.

The Holders of the present issue of Bonds will be given priority in the allotment of new bonds, and Holders of the present issue of Preferred Stock will be given priority in the allotment of new Preferred Stock; but it will be necessary for such Holders, on or before 8th May, 1905, to deposit their bonds or shares with THE ROYAL TRUST COMPANY, MONTREAL, or the NEW ENGLAND TRUST COMPANY, BOSTON, who are authorized to issue Temporary Receipts exchangeable for the new bonds and shares when issued.

The rate at which the exchange will be made is as follows: FOR OLD BONDS.—New Bonds for same amount, plus 11 per cent. in cash. Interest will be paid on old Bonds up to 12th May, 1905, and accrued interest on new Bonds from 1st May will be collected. FOR OLD STOCK.—Share for Share in new Stock. Interest on old Stock will be paid up to 12th May, 1905, and interest on new Stock will accrue from that date.

Applications by new subscribers must be accompanied by a deposit of 10 per cent. on the par value of the amount applied for, which will be returned if no allotment is made. The balance will be payable when the Temporary Receipts are delivered. When old securities are lodged for exchange, the deposit of 10 per cent. will not be required.

A Prospectus with full particulars and forms of application, may be obtained from

BANK OF MONTREAL, Montreal and Branches.
 CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE, Toronto, and Branches.
 LEE, HIGGINSON & CO., Boston, and
 THE ROYAL TRUST COMPANY, Montreal.

At any of which offices Subscriptions will be received.

STOCK LIST—Continued.

BONDS.	Rate of Interest per annum	Amount outstanding.	When Interest due	Where interest payable.	Date of Redemption.	Latest quotations.	REMARKS
Commercial Cable Coupon.....	4	\$18,000,000	1 Jan. 1 Apl. 1 July 1 Oct.	{ New York or London.....	{ 1 Jan., 1907	96 96	
Can. Colored Cotton Co.....	6	2,000,000	2 Apl. 2 Oct.	Bank of Montreal, Montreal.....	2 Apl., 1902	96	
Canada Paper Co.....	5	300,000	1 May 1 Nov.	Merchants Bank of Can., Montreal	1 May, 1917.		
Bell Telephone Co.....	5	2,000,000	1 Apl. 1 Oct.	Bank of Montreal, Montreal.....	1 Apl., 1925.		
Dominion Coal Co.....	6	2,433,000	1 Feb. 1 Sep.	Bank of Montreal, Montreal.....	1 Feb., 1915.	106½	Redeemable at 110
Dominion Cotton Co.....	4½	\$ 808,200	1 Jan 1 July	.....	.....		do 105 after 5 yrs
Dominion Textile Co.....		758,500	.....	.....	.....		Redeemable at 105
do do B.....	6	1,162,600	.....	.....	.....		Redeemable at 110
do do C.....	6	1,030,000	.....	.....	.....		do 105 after 5 yrs
do do D.....	6	450,000	.....	.....	.....		Redeemable at 105
Dominion Iron & Steel Co.....	6	\$ 7,876,000	1 Jan. 1 July	Bank of Montreal, Montreal.....	1 July, 1925	84½	Redeemable at 110 & accrued interest
Halifax Tramway Co.....	5		.....	.....	.....		Redeemable at 105
Intercolonial Coal Co.....	5	\$ 600,000	1 Jan. 1 July	Bk. of N. Scotia, Hal. or Montreal	1 Jan., 1916.	109	
Laurentide Pulp.....	5	344,000	1 Apl. 1 Oct.	.....	1 Apl., 1918.	106½	
Montmorency Cotton.....	5	1,115,000	.....	.....	.....	109	
Montreal Gas Co.....	4	1,000,000	.....	.....	.....
Montreal Light, Heat and Power	4½	880,074	1 Jan. 1 July	.....	.....
Montreal Street Ry. Co.....	5	7,500,000	1 Jan. 1 July	Bank of Montreal, Montreal.....	1 July, 1932.		Redeemable at 105
do do.....	5	292,000	1 Feb. 1 Aug.	Bank of Montreal, London, Eng.	1 Feb., 1908.	101	after Jan. 1st, 1912
do do.....	4½	681,333	1 May 1 Nov.	.....	1 Aug., 1922.		
Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co.....	6	1,500,000	1 Jan. 1 July	{ Union Bank, Halifax, or Bank of Nova Scotia, Mont' or Toronto	1 May, 1922.	103	
Ogilvie Flour Mill Co.....	6	2,500,000	1 Jan. 1 July	Bank of Montreal, Montreal.....	1 July, 1931.	107	
Richelieu & Ont. Nav. Co.....	6	1,000,000	1 June 1 Dec.	.....	1 June, 1932.	116	Redeemable at 110 after June 1st
Rochelle & Ont. Nav. Co.....	5	471,580	1 Feb. 1 Sep.	Montreal and London.....	1 Feb., 1915.	103	Redeemable at 110
Royal Electric Co.....	4½	\$ 130,000	1 Apl. 1 Oct.	Bk. of Montreal, Mont' or London	Oct., 1914.		Redeemable at 110
St. John Railway.....	5	\$ 675,000	1 May 1 Nov.	Bank of Montreal, St. John, N.B.	1 May, 1925.		5 p.c. redeemable yearly after 1906
Toronto Railway.....	4½	600,000	1 Jan. 1 July	.....	1 July, 1914.		
do do.....	4½	2,506,363	28 Feb. 31 Aug.	Bank of Scotland, London.....	31 Aug., 1921.	103	
Windsor Hotel.....	4½	340,000	1 Jan. 1 July	Windsor Hotel, Montreal.....	2 July, 1912.		
Winnipeg Elec. Street Railway.....	5	3,000,000	1 Jan. 1 July	Bank of Montreal, Montreal.....	1 Jan., 1927.	104½	
Toledo Ry. & Light Co.....	5	700,000	1 Jan. 1 July	.....	1 July, 1912.		
do do.....	5	5,185,000	1 Jan. 1 July	.....	1 July, 1902.		
do do.....	4	4,000,000	1 Jan 1 July	.....	1 July, 1909.		

[FIRE]
German American
 Insurance Company
 New York

CAPITAL
\$1,500,000
 NET SURPLUS
5,841,907
 ASSETS
12,980,705

AGENCIES THROUGHOUT CANADA.

Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation, LIMITED

HAMILTON HOUSE, VICTORIA EMBANKMENT, LONDON, E.C.

DIRECTORS' REPORT, 1905

The Directors submit to the Shareholders their Twenty-fourth Annual Report, together with the Audited Accounts to 31st December, 1904.

The premiums for the year are \$3,193,685, against \$3,191,985 for the year 1903, an increase of \$1,700.

The balance of this year's account is \$2,641,600. Out of this amount the Directors have already paid an interim dividend of 50c per Share, and now recommend a further dividend of \$1.25 per Share (free of Income Tax), making together a dividend of 17½ per cent, for the year on the Paid-up Capital. This will absorb \$131,250, leaving \$2,510,350 to be carried forward.

The following Directors, Mr. W. H. Maudslay, Mr. H. W. Maynard and Mr. R. Millburn retire, and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

In accordance with the resolution of the Shareholders, Messrs. Welton, Jones & Co. have audited the Accounts now submitted and offer themselves for re-election for the ensuing year.

By order of the Board,
S. STANLEY BROWN,
General Manager and Secretary.

16th February, 1905.

REVENUE ACCOUNT

1st JANUARY, 1904, TO 31st DECEMBER, 1904.

BALANCE OF LAST ACCOUNT—

As per last Report	\$2,195,505
Special Reserve now included	125,000
	<u>2,320,505</u>
Less Dividends for 1903	112,500
	<u>2,208,005</u>

REVENUE OF THE YEAR—

Premiums, less Bonus and Returns to the Assured and Reassurance	\$3,193,690
Interest and Rents	137,435
Transfer Fees	105
Profit on Exchange	10,000
	<u>3,341,230</u>

HAMILTON HOUSE REDEMPTION FUND INVESTMENT:—

Interest	970
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\$5,550,205

CHARGES AGAINST REVENUE FOR THE YEAR—

Directors' and Auditors' Fees . . . \$	18,025
Salaries and House Expenses . . .	54,615
Rent and Rates	11,820
Taxes (Home and Foreign)	58,210
Advertising	9,720
Books and Stationery	26,510
Legal Costs and Professional Fees . .	5,515
Branch and Agency Office Charges . .	20,255
Postage and Parcels	1,640
Travelling and Inspection	27,755
	<u>234,065</u>
Total Expenses \$	234,065
Commission and Losses paid and outstanding	2,668,975
Furniture and Repairs	2,760
Bad Debts	1,965
Loss on Sale of Investments	840
	<u>2,908,605</u>

BALANCE OF THIS ACCOUNT \$2,641,600

\$5,550,205

BALANCE SHEET

31st DECEMBER, 1904.

Dr.	Cr.
SHAREHOLDERS' CAPITAL—	
75,000 Shares, \$50 each	\$3,750,000
TO CAPITAL CALLED UP—	
75,000 Shares, \$10 per Share	\$ 750,000
Amounts due to other Companies	8,950
Outstanding Liabilities, including Commission	151,015
Branch and Agency Balances	500
RESERVES—	
For Outstanding Losses	\$ 865,940
Revenue Account	
Balance	\$2,641,600
Less Interim Dividend, 1904	37,500
	<u>2,604,100</u>
	<u>3,470,040</u>
BY INVESTMENTS—at Cost—	
Bank of Ireland Stock	\$ 27,930
Colonial Government Securities	323,200
Foreign Government Securities	607,120
Foreign and Colonial Municipal Securities	724,840
Railway and other Debentures and Debenture Stocks	1,378,400
Preference and Ordinary Stocks and Shares	94,740
Hamilton House	\$ 336,130
Redemption Fund Investment	28,040
	<u>364,170</u>
Freehold Premises	22,020
Loans on Securities	32,375
	<u>\$3,574,795</u>
Branch and Agency Balances	537,720
Amounts due from other Companies	11,380
Outstanding Premiums	71,365
Interest and Rents Accrued	43,160
Cash at Bankers	\$141,905
In hand	180
	<u>1142,085</u>
	\$4,380,505

\$5 taken as the equivalent of £1 stg.

\$4,380,505

\$4,380,505

CLAUD J. HAMILTON, *Chairman.*

S. STANLEY BROWN, *General Manager and Secretary.*

In accordance with the provisions of the Companies' Act, 1900, we certify that all our requirements as Auditors have been complied with. We have to report to the Shareholders that we have audited the above Balance Sheet, and that, in our opinion, such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Corporation's affairs as shown by the books of the Corporation in London. The Securities and Books at Boston (U.S.A.) have been examined by Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths & Co., who have reported to us thereon to our satisfaction.

16th February, 1905.

WELTON, JONES & CO., *Auditors.*

The MONTREAL CITY and DISTRICT SAVINGS BANK.

FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT.

MONTREAL, May 2, 1905.

To the Shareholders,
Gentlemen,

Your Directors have pleasure in presenting the Fifty-eighth Annual Report of the affairs of the Bank, and of the result of its operations for the year ending December 31st, 1904.

The net profits for the year were \$148,378.12, and the balance brought forward from last year's Profit and Loss Account \$77,708.37, making a total of \$226,086.49. From this amount have been paid two dividends and bonus, and \$100,000 has been carried to Reserve Fund, making the latter \$800,000, leaving a balance at the credit of Profit and Loss Account of \$26,086.49, to be carried forward to next year.

The number of open accounts on December 31st last, was 74,487, and the average amount due each depositor was \$222.44.

As intimated in our last report, a branch was established during the year, at the corner of Ontario and Maisonneuve Streets, for the accommodation of our depositors in that district, and another branch will be established during the present month, at the corner of St. Lawrence Street and Pine Avenue, where a building has already been secured for the purpose.

As usual, a frequent and thorough inspection of the books has been made during the course of the year.

The Report of the Auditors and the Balance Sheet are herewith submitted.

Your are invited to elect Directors and Auditors for the current year.

W. H. HINGSTON,
President.

ASSETS.

Cash on hand and in chartered Banks	\$1,660,510 73	
Dominion of Canada Government Stock and accrued interest	2,037,012 50	
Provincial Government Bonds	403,807 43	
City of Montreal, and other Municipal and School Bonds and Debentures	6,271,431 91	
Other Bonds and Debentures	632,321 50	
Sundry Securities	320,837 25	
Call and Short Loans secured by collaterals	6,399,518 61	
Charity Donation Fund, invested in Municipal Securities approved by the Dominion Government	180,000 00	
	<hr/>	\$17,965,439 93
Bank premises (Head Office and Seven Branches)	\$ 450,000 00	
Other Assets	12,466 46	462,466 46

\$18,427,906 39

LIABILITIES.

TO THE PUBLIC:		
Amount due Depositors	\$16,643,365 99	
Receiver-Gen-eral	93,341 86	
Amount due Charity Donation Fund	180,000 00	
Amount due Open Accounts	85,112 05	
	<hr/>	\$17,001,819 90
TO THE SHAREHOLDERS:		
Capital Stock (amount subscribed \$2,000,000)		
. paid up \$	600,000 00	
Reserve Fund	800,000 00	
Profit and Loss Account	26,086 49	
	<hr/>	\$1,426,086 49

\$18,427,906 39

Number of open accounts 74,487.
Average amount due each depositor \$222.44.

Audited and found correct,

JAS. TASKER, }
A. CINQ-MARS, } *Auditors.*

A. P. LESPERANCE,
Manager.

NEW YORK INSURANCE LETTER.

New York, May 3, 1905.

The numerous fire insurance agencies in this part of the country which make a speciality of placing surplus line insurance in foreign companies, and others not regularly authorized to transact business are interested in the bill before the New York Legislature to prohibit surplus insurance, unless the company writing the policy has deposited \$50,000 with the Superintendent of Insurance. This bill, should it pass, will interfere greatly with the mercantile business in this state, because it will make it impossible to cover the large values which cannot now be provided for in regularly authorized companies. It is hardly likely that the bill will pass, but it is the general tendency now to hold insurance companies to a strict accountability through Legislative measures, and there is no knowing what foolish measures ignorant and fanatical Legislatures might be guilty of.

In this connection it may be noted that the fire insurance business in this city has been unusually good, the premium receipts being considerably improved over last year, while the losses are lighter. The prospects also of general business are excellent, and there is every reason to hope that this favourable condition will continue.

The Equitable Life troubles are being thoroughly aired in the daily papers, and the scene changes so often that it is hard to know at one time what conditions may prevail in another day. The whole present trouble was started by a desire for control on the part of one or two officials, and that is still the real aspect of the case. In the meantime the great society keeps on with its regular business, receiving and paying out large sums of money every week. Of course the talk of receivership, and especially any hint or idea of insolvency, is absurd, and no policy-holder need have the slightest apprehension as to the safety of any funds which he may have invested.

Life insurance men are interested in the statement that four of the large companies are advancing rates on their non-participation policies, that is to say, policies which mature for their face value only, and do not entitle the beneficiary to receive any dividends. The increase is from 3 to 6 per cent. on ordinary life policies, and on limited payment and endowment policies somewhat less. This step is doubtless taken on account of the higher reserve made necessary by the slow but perceptible decline in rates of interest.

NOTES.

The opening of the new building of the Mutual Life in the City of Mexico was the occasion of a pleasant exchange of friendly feeling between the officials of the company and the President of the Mexican Republic. President Diaz was in person present at the ceremonies, and expressed approval of the handsome and useful character of the building.

Manager J. J. Guile, of the Sun Insurance Office, has returned to New York after a brief Southern trip.

Manager Charles H. Post, of the Caledonian, sailed for Europe on the 27th ult. to attend the centennial celebration of the company at the home office in Edinburgh.

U. S. Manager Theodore W. Letton, of the Prussian National Insurance Company, and President William J. Dutton, of the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, recently sailed for Europe from this port.

High approval is expressed at the appointment of Mr. U. C. Crosby, for several years president of the New Hampshire Fire Insurance Company, to be U. S. Manager of the Royal Exchange.

Mr. Cecil B. Shallcross, manager of the Royal Insurance Company, was recently married to Miss Laura J. Post, daughter of manager Charles H. Post, of the Caledonian.

QUERIST.