



can be cultivated. We know more about each other than formerly, we have now something in common which we never had before, and one evidence of this is the splendid contribution from every part of the Empire to the sufferers by the Ottawa-Hull fire.

A CANADIAN MINT.

LAST month a small discussion was raised in the Dominion Parliament on account of an enquiry by Lieut. Col. Prior, M.P. of British Columbia, regarding the establishment of a Canadian mint. The Hon. Mr. Fielding, Minister of Finance, in reply to the question as to whether negotiations were now being carried on with the British Government regarding this matter, stated that while the question had for some time engaged the attention of the Government, yet no official communications had recently been held with the Imperial Government. It was not clear to his mind that a mint similar to the Australian mint would meet the needs of Canada. The Australian sovereign was equal in value to the British sovereign, but the fact that our \$5 piece was of a slightly different value created a considerable difficulty. He was under the impression that, while many bankers in Canada were in favor of a mint, still the majority were opposed to it. The matter was still engaging the attention of the Government, but he was not just then in a position to make any definite statement.

In speaking on this question Mr. Prior stated that there was a strong feeling all over Canada, and more especially in British Columbia, for the establishment of a Canadian mint. A large quantity of gold and silver bullion mined in this Dominion was annually going to the United States Government mint at San Francisco, the result being that not only was it mined into American instead of Canadian coins, but that American workmen got the benefit of the labor expended upon it, and a large amount of supplies were purchased with the money which trade should naturally be bought in Canada.

In our opinion there is much force in Col. Prior's contentions. Apart from the benefits which he enumerates, it is patent to many thinking people that the time has now come when this country should have a national coinage of its own instead of being dependent upon, not the Mother Country whose coinage is different from ours and cannot therefore be used here to advantage, but that of the United States, a foreign country in every sense of the word.

It is humiliating for Canada to have to be dependent upon the United States, or any other country for that matter, for the gold coinage that we use in our business, and all the more so when we produce the bullion itself from our own mines, and we can mint it just as cheaply and as well as it can be done elsewhere.

One of the very best advertisements that Canada could have, would be her own gold coinage going all over the civilized world and passing current amongst them at its face value. Our Government which is always looking out for some means of bringing the country before the eyes of the world, should not neglect the chance that lies before them in this direction.

In addition to the foregoing reasons there are those others

which more particularly affect the jewelry trade than any other. If a Canadian mint were founded by the Government, it would be very easy to establish assay offices at the principal manufacturing centres throughout the Dominion, say in Toronto, Montreal, Halifax and perhaps Winnipeg, which would not only prove of great service to the jewelry trade, but to the public generally. These assay offices would not entail a very great deal of expense on the country; as a matter of fact the fees they took in for assays of all kinds would go a long way towards paying the expense, and it is probable that eventually they would become practically self-supporting. We are satisfied that even now in British Columbia and Ontario, owing to the large number of mining assays that have to be made, such offices would almost pay their own way. To the jewelry trade they would be invaluable.

Let us have a Canadian mint and assay offices as soon as possible say we

A SPLENDID EXAMPLE.

THE letter of Mr. A. B. Kleiser, on another page of the present issue, giving an account of the disastrous fire at Sandon, B.C., which occurred last month, gives an example of the indomitable energy and push which characterizes the people of our western country, and which in the near future will make the Province of British Columbia second to none in the Dominion.

As will be seen from this account the fire made almost a clean sweep of one of the smartest little towns in Canada, only one business place being left to show where it stood.

In spite of this terrible calamity, however, the people got to work at once, and laid their plans for rebuilding on a much better scale than formerly. As will be seen, our jewelers were not by any means the slowest in the lot, and their pluck and energy is to be heartily commended.

The loss by the great Ottawa-Hull fire has been so great that our people are almost apt to overlook the Sandon fire and remember that in proportion to the size of the places, it was by far the more disastrous fire of the two. Now that the Ottawa-Hull sufferers have been so liberally provided for, we trust that the stream of public generosity will turn towards plucky little Sandon, a baby town in years, but having the grit and energy equal to any place in our wide Dominion.

To our fellow-craftsmen we would say if you can spare any more money, let the Sandon sufferers have it. They have not asked anything, but they deserve it all the more for bearing their losses so philosophically and with so little complaint.

ST. JOSEPH, MO., May 10.—Samuel J. Phillips, for years a trusted salesman of R. U. Hendrick, jeweler, was arrested this afternoon on suspicion of having systematically robbed his employers. Gold and precious stones valued at several hundred dollars were found upon Phillips when he was searched at police headquarters. The man was arrested on information received by the police from his wife. The disclosures made to the officers were, it is said, in revenge for the ill treatment by Phillips of the woman's son, Alfred Redine.