

DOMINION ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

Fire College at Ottawa Recommended—Uniform Phone Number to Facilitate Fire Alarms—Fire Departments to Become Preventive Organizations

THE 1920 annual convention of the Dominion Association of Fire Chiefs was held in St. Thomas, Ont., August 2 to 6. On the first day meetings of the auditors, of the board of directors and of the committee on fire college were held, the convention proper opening on the 3rd. President Berthiaume, of Quebec, in his opening remarks, stated that this was the first time the association had been presided over by a French-Canadian, and that the problems of fire chiefs were similar in all parts of the Dominion. F. Brinkman, mayor of St. Thomas, and E. A. Horton, president of the board of trade, welcomed the delegates to the city. Organization of a ladies' auxiliary to assist in fire preventive and educational work was completed during the convention, Mrs. G. W. Graham, of Ottawa, being elected president and Mrs. J. Keyes, of Galt, secretary.

The act passed at the last session of the Ontario legislature providing that every fireman should have one day in seven off was discussed, and it was pointed out that this would add substantially to the cost of fire departments, and that it would also do away with the double platoon system which has been adopted by many municipalities. This act is to go into force January 1, 1921, and a penalty of \$10 per day is to be imposed on fire chiefs who do not carry it out. A majority of the chiefs were opposed to the act.

The convention unanimously approved a uniform telephone number for fire calls throughout the Dominion, and appointed a committee to bring this to the attention of the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada. It was decided to adopt red and white lights for all fire vehicles, and a standard fire siren was approved. A code of traffic rules was discussed, but not adopted, as it was considered best to leave this to individual municipalities.

Standards for Fire Fighting

Fire Chief Healy, of Denver, Col., who, the preceding week was elected president of the International Association of Fire Engineers at Toronto, and Fire Chief Percy Hoyt, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, addressed the meeting. Mr. Healy stated that the view held by some chiefs of large cities that they could learn nothing at such conventions was wrong, as the chiefs in smaller cities, not having so many expert subordinates, had to give more attention to the different branches of the work, such as building regulations, etc. The International Association, he said, was now engaged in compiling a standard book of rules and information for fire chiefs. The standard must always have regard to the function of the department, which was to extinguish fires in the quickest way. In the United States the chief had to pass a civil service examination, and held his position for life or during good behaviour.

J. Grove Smith, Dominion fire commissioner, gave an address on fire prevention. "The fire chief of the future will," he said, "increase in importance, and will direct his attention more and more to the prevention of fires. Fire prevention is one of the most important questions before Canada to-day. This country is burdened with a debt of \$2,400,000,000. Nine million people have to bear this debt. It is imperative that we be careful of our waste. We must be an economical nation if we are to carry on and pay off this gigantic debt. In the final analysis and from the very best point of view fire prevention should appeal to all patriotic citizens because it is a public service of the highest order. And to give to one's neighbor, to one's community and one's country is the very best thing that a man can do."

Fire preventive work was showing results, said Mr. Smith, as the 1918 loss of \$33,925,000 had been reduced in 1919 to \$24,000,000, and he felt confident that this year it would not exceed \$20,000,000. It must go still lower if this country was to prosper. The speaker disapproved of the

paying of commissions to insurance agents based on the premiums, as this did not encourage the agent to advocate the improvement of property and the removal of fire hazards, which would lessen the insurance premium and thereby lower his commission. Mr. Smith also pointed out that it was the duty of chiefs to urge the installation of sprinkler systems and to see that an adequate water supply was available.

The committee on fire college reported in favor of the proposal, and their report was approved by the convention. They recommend that the college be controlled by a board representing the Fire Chiefs' Association, the Dominion Fire Prevention Association, and the fire marshals of the provinces. Admission would be open to a fireman at his own expense, though some financial assistance might be extended.

RULING ON STOCK TRANSFER TAX

The expected ruling has been handed down by both the minister of finance and the provincial treasurer in regard to the transfer tax on "no par value" shares. Such stock is to be taxed upon selling price on each hundred dollars or fraction thereof at the rate of five cents per hundred dollars. For instance, one hundred shares of North America Pulp would sell at approximately \$650, on which the tax would be 35 cents.

EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS

Messrs. Glazebrook and Cronyn, exchange and bond brokers, Toronto, report local exchange rates to *The Monetary Times* as follows:—

	Buyers.	Sellers.	Counter.
N.Y. funds	12 25-32 pm	12 27-32 pm
Mont. funds	Par.	Par.	1/8 to 1/4
Sterling—			
Demand	\$4.13	\$4.14
Cable transfers ...	4.14	4.15
Rates in New York, sterling demand, \$3.66%.			
Bank of England rate, 7 per cent.			

The National City Co. report exchange rates in New York, as at August 12, as follows: Cable, London, 3.66%; cheque, London, 3.66; cable, Paris, 7.29; cheque, Paris, 7.28; cable, Italy, 5.05; cheque, Italy, 5.04; cheque, Belgium, 7.80; cheque, Swiss, 16.75; cheque, Spain, 15.15; cheque, Holland, 3.350; cheque, Denmark, 15.20; cheque, Norway, 15.20; cheque, Sweden, 20.75; cheque, Berlin, 2.20; cheque, Greece, 11.80; cheque, Finland, 3.20; cheque, Roumania, 2.25.

BANQUE PROVINCIALE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of La Banque Provinciale was held in Montreal on August 11, and the financial statement for the year ended June 30 last was presented to shareholders. The statement, which was reviewed recently, showed an all-round improvement over a year ago. Deposits show an increase of nearly \$8,000,000, while reserves of \$9,264,000 were 25 per cent. of liabilities to the public, and total quick assets of \$26,489,000 were 74 per cent. of liabilities to the public. Net profits last year amounted to \$333,882, an increase of over \$44,000.

During the year the bank raised its capital of \$3,000,000 by the issue of an extra \$1,000,000 of new stock, which was mostly fully paid up by July, 1920. Also during the year the bank raised its dividend from 7 per cent. to 8 per cent. The bank confines its operations to Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

The retiring board of directors were re-elected as follows: Sir Hormidas Laporte, P.C., president; W. F. Carsley, vice-president; Tanerede Bienvenue, vice-president; G. W. Bosworth, Hon. N. Garneau, C.L.L., J. O. Beauchemin, M. Chevalier. The retiring board of control was re-elected with Sir Alexandre Lacoste, president; Hon. N. Perodeau, N.P., and J. S. B. Relland.