

STEPS TO PREVENT LOSS BY FIRE

The Hon. J. W. deB. Farris, attorney-general of British Columbia has issued the following letter calling for the establishment of Provincial Bureau of Fire Prevention to devise way and means for decreasing the present heavy annual loss by fire:

"The Government has inaugurated a movement, the aim of which is to reduce the enormous waste due to preventable fires. The proposal is to establish a Provincial Bureau of Fire Prevention, which will operate through local bureaus; the membership to be composed of persons representative of this Department, the municipalities, the fire departments, the insurance companies, and all bodies or interests able and willing to render aid in this connection. The Bureau will prepare propaganda, furnish information, and plan a campaign to diminish the loss by fire.

"As you are doubtless aware, there is a tremendous field for an organization of this character. In Canada the annual value of property destroyed by fire approaches the sum of \$3 for every man, woman, and child, and surpasses even the figures for the United States, where a campaign is being vigorously waged over the length and breadth of the land. In Europe the average loss per capita is well under 50 per cent., proving that conditions in America call for a cure. This yearly waste of our resources is not inevitable, for countless statistics demonstrate that about 60 per cent. of the fires which occur could be prevented by the exercise of more care. The Commission of Conservation sitting at Ottawa has thoroughly investigated the whole subject throughout the Dominion, and has just published a book, emphasizing the need of action.

"It is perhaps needless to point out that, engaged as we are in war, when industries, plant, food, and materials of all kinds are of vital importance, there is an additional reason for taking all possible steps to preserve property. It is not sufficient to increase production unless at the same time what exists is safeguarded. Every fire destroys food or material, which, though compensated by insurance money, diminishes the available supply and requires labour to replace.

"It is earnestly desired to enlist in the movement every agency which can render service. Will you therefore be so good as to bring the matter before your executive and request them to select a delegate for the Bureau which I have outlined? A general conference of the parties interested will be held as soon as possible to formulate plans for prompt action, and an early reply will oblige. Communications should be addressed to the Superintendent of Insurance, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B. C."

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS' ANNUAL MEETING

At the thirteenth annual meeting of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia, the statement was made that twenty-two of the members and thirty-six articled clerks were serving in the Empire's forces abroad. The report of the treasurer showed the institute to be in good financial position after making the usual grants to patriotic funds. Reports were submitted by the delegates who attended the last annual meeting of the Association of Chartered Accountants which met in Banff in August last year and Messrs. Gordon Tansley and A. H. Christie were nominated to represent the Institute at the Dominion Association meeting in Montreal in September next. Mr. A. H. Edwards acted as chairman.

The following will constitute the council of the institute during the present year: W. S. Buttar, H. D. Christie, A. H. Edwards, A. F. Griffiths, W. A. Tolmie, G. F. Gyles, J. B. Woodthorpe, G. E. Winter and J. H. Young.

AMALGAMATION OF NORTHERN CANNERIES

Of considerable interest in financial and fishing circles is the formation of the Northern B. C. Fisheries, Limited with an authorized capital of \$2,000,000 being an amalgamation of seven canneries and a box factory in the northern district of the province. The companies making up the amalgamation are as follows: Draney Fisheries, Limited, with cannery at Namu; the Kimsquit Fisheries, Limited with cannery at Kimsquit; the Tallheo Fisheries, Limited with cannery at Bella Coola; Skeena River Commercial Company, Limited with cannery at Port Essington; Port Edward Fisheries, Limited with cannery at Port Edward; the Kincolith Fisheries, Limited with cannery at Mill Bay, Naas River; the Portland Fisheries, Limited with cannery at Kumeon, Steamer Passage; and the Namu Box Company, Limited with sawmill and box factory at Namu.

The officers and directors are R. V. Winch, president, Henry Doyle, vice-president, R. F. Winch, F. A. Fitcher, and F. J. Coulthard. Mr. R. E. Walker of R. V. Winch & Company is the secretary. The head office of the company is at the offices of R. V. Winch & Company, Winch Building, Vancouver.

The purpose of this amalgamation is primarily to stabilize the earnings of the various companies involved. It frequently happens that a cannery at one spot has a very lean season and a cannery at another spot equally strategically situated has a very profitable season. By those interested in the constituent companies pooling their interests they are reasonably assured of constant dividends provided a poor season does not obtain throughout the entire northern district. The amalgamation will further have the advantage to the constituent companies of one set of books, one office, one purchasing department, one selling agency, thus cutting down overhead charges which have proved a considerable item in cannery operation.

CHARTERED BANK STATEMENT FOR JUNE.

Large increases in both demand and notice deposits are shown in the bank statement for the month of June issued by the Finance Department. Current loans increased approximately three millions, as compared with the May statement. The assets and liability figures continue to climb steadily upward. The chief figures for June, compared with May, follow:

	June 1918	May, 1918
Reserve Fund	\$114,344,068	114,333,518
Note Circulation	194,681,710	181,189,959
Demand deposits	594,371,078	535,655,731
Notice deposits	965,934,356	947,757,337
Deposits outside Canada	210,118,939	204,173,285
Current coin	75,564,627	76,570,586
Dominion notes	133,814,738	177,655,477
Deposits central gold reserve..	84,470,000	79,780,000
Call loans in Canada.....	76,970,920	78,466,582
Current loans outside Canada..	170,074,476	172,259,879
Current loans in Canada.....	897,226,012	894,817,113
Current loans outside Canada..	103,033,289	99,300,926
Total liabilities	2,101,467,350	2,070,543,724
Total assets	2,349,836,297	2,319,958,402

NEW SECRETARY OF CHAMBER OF MINES

Mr. John Cunliffe has tendered his resignation as secretary of the Vancouver Chamber of Mines, Dominion Building, Vancouver, to take up the development of some coal claims he is interested in on the North Thompson River near Kamloops. Mr. William Thomlinson of New Denver has been tendered the position, but it will be some time before he can take up the work. In the meanwhile Mr. William Way is acting secretary.