BANK AMALGAMATIONS.

(Continued from page 739.)

As general principles to be acted upon at present by the Government at its discretion, we would suggest that a scheme for amalgamating or absorbing a small local bank, or any scheme of amalgamation designed to secure important new facilities for the public or a really considerable and material extension of area or sphere of activity for the larger of the two banks affected, should normally be considered favourably, but that if an amalgamation scheme involves an appreciable overlap of area without securing such advantages, or would result in undue predominance on the part of the larger bank, it should be refused. Consideration should also, in our opinion, be given to the question of the clerical labour—usually very large— involved by amalgamations during the war, and to the undesirability of permitting an unusual aggregation of deposits without fully adequate capital and reserves.

It only remains to make a suggestion as to which Government Department or Departments should be charged with the responsibility of approving or disapproving amalgamation schemes, etc., under our proposal above. On the whole, we think that the approval both of the Treasury and of the Board of Trade should be obtained and that legislation should be passed requiring the two departments to set up a special Statutory Committee to advise them, the members of which should be nominated by the departments from time to time, for such period as may seem desirable, and should consist of one commercial representative and one financial representative, with power to appoint an arbitrator, should they disagree."

CANADIAN FIRE RECORD.

Compiled by The Chronicle.

Fire at Port Credit, Ont.—By the fire which occurred on the 6th instant on the premises of the St. Lawrence Starch Company. The following companies are interested Aetna $3,000; Atlas, $7,500, British Dominion, $5,000; British Empire Und., $2,500; County of Phil., $2,500; Employers, $2,500; Georgia Home, $2,500; Glens Falls, $5,000; Globe & Rutgers, $2,500; Guardian, $15,000; North America $5,000; Insurance Co. of Penn., $5,000; London & Loan, $5,000; London Guarantee, $5,000; London Mutual, $2,500; London Lloyds, $7,500; Merchants New York, $1,000; National of N.J., $2,500; Northern, $5,000; Norwich Union, $9,500; North River, $11,500; North West, $2,500; North Empire, $4,000; North Brit. & Mer. $5,000; Occidental, $4,250; Ocean, $6.500; Pacific Coast, $2,500; Pacific Fire, $10,000; Richmond, $10,000; St. Lawrence Und., $2,500; United States, $10,000; Union of London, $5,000; Union of Canton, $5,000; Western, $7,500; Millers' Mnfrs., $10,000. Total, $191,250. Loss about 50 per cent.

No. 1 plant (burned) is a frame structure of four stories built about 25 years ago. No. 2 plant (not damaged) is a modern building of steel construction and stands away about 20 yards from the other building. Origin of fire not known.

Fire at Indian River.—On the 1st instant the grist mill owned by Ross Staples of Indian River was destroyed by fire. It was one of the landmarks of the place being a stone structure erected 57 years ago.

Fire at Cardston, Alta.—On the 2nd instant a fire destroyed the O.K. livery barns. A garage and six cars. Loss about $15,000.

Fire at Graham, Ont.—On the 8th instan ta disastrous fire occurred in the business section of Graham, Ont., a division point on the Canadian Government railway situated east of Winnipeg. The following buildings are reported destroyed:— Graham Hotel, Post Office, Bank of Montreal, Hudson Bay Company's Store, Cosco's General Store, Jewel's General Store, Hamilton Bros. Hardware, three restraurants, Day's Drug Store, McArtney & Burke, Jewelers, Rastin, tailor, Ettridge's Barber Shop and Mrs. Hensen's milinery store, in addition to four or five unoccupied buildings. Loss may probably reach $250,000 to $300,-000.

Fire at Montreal.—On the 7th instant, fire destroyed the Ontario Skating Rink, DesErables St., Montreal. Insurance as follows: Phoenix of London, $3,000; New York Underwriters, $500; Hartford, $500; Northern, $500; Royal Exchange, $2,000; Atlas, $2,000; Norwich Union, $2,000. Total, $10,5000.

(Above property Estate Samuel Robertson.)

WHERE TO FIND DEPARTED FRIENDS

If you want to know where to find departed friends, and at the same time help along the "Clean-up Week" movement, the following letter sent out by Insurance Commissioner James R. Young, of North Carolina, will aid you considerably:

Those old paint buckets we used while painting up last spring—Under the house or in the closet. (They are about right now to start a fire or to make a fine incubator for mosquitoes, etc.).

The Christmas edition of a New York paper—It's back behind the kitchen cabinet. (You never went back to read it the second time.)

The shavings and scraps the carpenters left when they remodeled the house—They are stuck around in little piles under the house and around the yard. (Unsightly and dangerous.)

The box and packing in which the furniture was packed—It's up in the attic. We are going to use it some time. (Said that last year.) You are going to use it some time, too, if you don't mind.

Those buckets we mixed the whitewash in last spring—They are around on the north side of the house. Thought it was best to leave them there where the sun would never reach them.

The hat boxes and tissue paper which came around last Easter's hat and clothes—They are up in the attic with those from Easter before last. They are doing no good—might do harm. Better clean up and get rid of them.

Take a look around your premises. Clean up. Get those fire breeders and germ breeders out of your house and out of your yard. They belong on the city dump heap, but will never get there until you start something. Start them on the road to the dump heap—that's your part.

All is trash which reason cannot reach. There is no reason for:

A back yard full of broken bits of goods boxes.

A basement full of old papers, hat boxes, and ashes.

An attic full of broken chairs, sofa stuffing, and old carpet strips you will never use.

All the wrapping paper and old newspapers which have for years blown under the house.