

CHARTERED BANKS AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE EXCESS CIRCULATION.

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a Memorandum, dated 3rd August, 1914, from the Minister of Finance, recommending, having regard to the worldwide financial crisis that has developed upon the outbreak of hostilities in Europe and in view of the action taken by the Imperial Government to conserve the commercial and financial interests of the United Kingdom that in case such course should in his opinion be required, he be authorized to issue Dominion notes to such an amount as may be necessary against such securities as may be deposited by the banks and approved by the Minister of Finance.

The Minister further recommends as follows:—

That the Government authorize the chartered banks of Canada to make payment in bank notes instead of in gold or Dominion notes until further official announcement in that behalf. This action will tend to preserve the Canadian gold supply against demands from foreign sources;

That the Government authorize the several chartered banks of Canada to issue from this date and until further announcement excess circulation to amounts not exceeding fifteen per cent. of the combined unimpaired capital and rest or reserve fund of the respective banks as stated in their respective statutory monthly returns to the Minister of Finance for the month immediately preceding that in which the additional is issued;

That any necessary special legislation be obtained at the next Session of Parliament.

The Minister also recommends that the Government be prepared to give every other possible assistance in order to prevent any avoidable interruption of stable business conditions, and for this purpose to use to the fullest extent all existing powers, and if necessary to ask further powers from Parliament.

FIRE RECORD.

FIRE AT PRINCE ALBERT, SASKATCHEWAN.

By the fire which occurred on the 21st July, on the premises of McKay & Adam & Manville Hardware Company, Prince Albert, Sask., the following companies are interested:

ON BUILDING.	
Yorkshire	\$5,000
Liv. and Lon. and	6,000
Globe	5,000
Caledonian	5,000
Western	6,000
Phoenix of Hartford	2,000
Total	\$24,000
Slight Salvage.	
ON STOCK.	
Pacific Coast	\$2,000
Northern	2,000
Commercial Union	1,000
Phoenix of London	2,000
Ins. Co. of N. Am.	1,000
Hartford	3,000
Winnipeg	1,000
Home	2,000
North Brit. & Mer.	2,500
National of Hartford	3,000
North Western	1,000
Royal Exchange	1,000
Total	\$21,500
Loss total.	
ON FIXTURES.	
Employers Liability	\$1,000
Yorkshire	1,000
Total	2,000
Loss total.	

FIRE AT BARRIE, ONT.

A fire occurred on the 4th instant on the premises of the Barrie Examiner Printing Office, Barrie, Ont. The implement store adjoining was also damaged, covered by insurance.

THE ANTI-LIQUOR CAMPAIGN IN GERMANY.

In Germany the movement touches all classes from the Kaiser on the throne to the poorest Socialist on the back streets of Berlin. Absolute suppression is the demand. "We cannot discuss moderation with any man," says Dr. Matthaei, one of the staff physicians in the German army.

As the result of several years of agitation, the Bundersrath, the Federal Council of the Empire, is now considering a bill against the issuing of any more liquor licenses in Germany, regardless of whether there is real demand for them or not. This measure is aimed primarily at Berlin, where, during recent years, there has been great increase in drunkenness and attendant immorality. The bill compels municipalities to refuse licenses in all cases in which the need for them is not clearly established and "to all persons who cannot demonstrate their respectability."

There are more than 13,000 breweries in Germany, and the per capita consumption of beer in Germany is larger than the per capita consumption of all liquors in the United States. In 1912 the German Imperial Statistical Office published complete data respecting the effect of alcohol on the efficiency and health of industrial workers. Beginning with his twenty-fourth year, the drinker's attacks of sickness were 2.6 times as frequent as those of the healthy man, and the disparity increased year after year, while the same was true of the duration of sickness. Other such statistics showing the liability to accident and disease have been published and spread broadcast throughout Germany. The national insurance societies have entered into a campaign against the use of alcohol. In the spring of last year the first congress for the bringing up of children in total-abstinence principles,—thereafter to be held annually,—met in Berlin. It was largely attended by women.—From "Europe's Reaction Against Alcoholism," in the *American Review of Reviews* for August.

"THE FASCINATION OF WAR."

Admiration of the brilliant qualities displayed in war may prevent an impression of the crimes and miseries of this savage custom. We know that men seldom delight in war, considered merely as a source of misery. Yet when they hear of battles, the picture which rises to their view is not what it should be, a picture of extreme wretchedness, of the wounded, the mangled, the slain. These horrors are hidden under the splendour of those mighty energies which leak forth amidst the perils of conflict, and which human nature contemplates with an intense and heart-thrilling delight. Perhaps, when the present conflict is over, and our daily thoughts return to the pursuit of industry, the sounds of "weeping by the hearth" in many Canadian homes, will subdue the martial fever, and lead the press and pulpit to warn people against yielding to the fascinations of war.

But at present, in all parts of the British Empire, the field of battle is being regarded as the field of glory, and so marked is the military spirit of the people that all the nations upon earth may well regard the Peace Conference at The Hague as a dream.