Editorial

THE IMPERIAL MUNITIONS BOARD.

The organization of the Imperial Munitions Board involves no reflection upon the Canadian Shell Committee. It means simply that there has been a change in the character of the work to be done, and that financiers must handle it, rather than technical men.

The problem in Canada to-day is, "How can we get paid for the shells we deliver?" The problem of yesterday was, "Can we make shells in Canada? and how can we mobilize our industrial resources to the best advantage?"

The Canadian Shell Committee, made up of technically skilled men, was necessary to solve yesterday's difficulties. That it did its work most satisfactorily is best proven by the fact that Mr. Hichens is now able to handle the situation with a Board in which there sit but two engineers, General Bertram and Colonel Carnegie. The other five members are all financiers. That proves that the worry now is "money," not "production," and shows that Mr. Hichens is correct when he states that "the Shell Committee have for the past fourteen months been carrying on a work of the most exacting and strenuous nature, and have fulfilled their task well; the changes which are now being made are the logical development of their work."

Though the financial strain on Germany has been greater, that on England has not been light, and in order to enlarge the "silver bullet," it is deemed desirable by the British Government that Canada should finance the making of Canadian shells, and give credit to the Allies. To do this, the Canadian Shell Committee would have had to borrow from the banks and, by many other means, put through a financial deal of far greater magnitude than any ever before handled by a single group of Canadians.

Obviously, a reconstruction of the committee and an infusion of financial knowledge was necessary. The result was the appointment of E. R. Wood, president of the Dominion Securities Corporation; J. A. Vaillancourt, president of Banque d'Hochelaga; C. B. Gordon, director of the Bank of Montreal; G. H. Dawson, Surveyor-General, Victoria, B.C., and J. W. Flavelle, director of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. These men are all experienced financiers, each of them connected with numerous concerns, and have the entree into most financial circles in Canada.

The experience and knowledge gained by the retiring members of the Shell Committee will not be lost to the country, however, as Thomas Cantley, George Watts and E. Carnegie have been appointed as members of a new commission which will report on the conservation of raw materials required for war munitions.

DIVERSION FOR POWER PURPOSES OF NIAGARA RIVER WATER.

In view of the reference appearing on another page to the diversion of water from the Niagara River and in view, also, of the schemes that are being advanced to meet the demand for more power, it is of interest to refer to the purport of an order-in-council, approved by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario in June, 1914. This order-in-council advises that in view of the restrictions expressed in cubic feet per second, which have been placed upon the diversion of Niagara River waters for power purposes under Article V. of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1910 between Great Britain and the United States, there should be fixed in cubic feet per second, in the case of each of the powers companies now operating within the limits of the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park under agreements with the park commissioners, a specific portion of the total volume of water which is available for diversion in Ontario under the terms of the said treaty.

Notifications to this effect were given to the respective companies by the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park Commission on November 5th, 1913, and representatives of each of the companies were heard, and the committee of council advised that the specific portions of the total volume of diversion which the companies may use be fixed as follows:

In the case of the Canadian Niagara Power Company a volume of diversion from the Niagara River above the Falls of Niagara not to exceed eight thousand two hundred and twenty-five (8,225) cubic feet of water per second.

In the case of the Electrical Development Company a volume of diversion from the Niagara River above the Falls of Niagara not to exceed nine thousand nine hundred and eighty-five (9,985) cubic feet of water per second.

In the case of the Ontario Power Company, a volume of diversion from the Niagara River above the Falls of Niagara not to exceed eleven thousand one hundred and eighty (11,180) cubic feet of water per second.

The committee further advised that each of the companies be required, upon reasonable notice being given, to provide facilities for the making, by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, of any hydraulic and electrical measurements and tests which may be necessary in order to determine from time to time: (*a*) Quantity of water used; (*b*) operating head; (*c*) hydraulic and electrical efficiency of individual units or of the plant as a whole; (*d*) amount of hydraulic and electrical power being developed.

The order-in-council also advised that the Hydro-Electric Power Commission be authorized to inspect the plans, specifications, and method of installation of all mechanical, hydraulic and electrical plant now installed, or to be installed, by the said power companies; and that properly accredited officers of the Commission be given authority to make such inspections, measurements and tests, and to enter upon the premises of the companies for such purposes.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE.

We refer in our issue of December 2nd to the formation of a Civic Improvement League for Canada, and also report Mr. Thomas Adams' address to the conference. It is, therefore, unnecessary to explain the objects and purposes of this new organization further than to state that they comprise almost everything that concerns the general welfare of the people. We hope that the Civic Improvement League will succeed in forming