

for more capital. But with conservatism, there is no reason to expect that all legitimate requirements will not be met. On banking system has shown the wisdom of the framers of the Bank Act, and has enabled the banks as heretofore to issue circulation to meet the large outlay which always occurs at this season of the year. Our bankers have been able to carry on the business of the country without asking or receiving assistance from any quarter.

The Mayor and the Water Committee. Some of the members of the Water Committee feel sore because Mayor Ekers ordered a smoke-stack which was urgently needed for the Wheel House, without the authority of the Committee. Alderman Levesque says: "I admit it was done in the interest of the city, but the committee should have known about it. We were ignored altogether in that affair."

To be strictly accurate the smoke-stack was ordered after a consultation between the Mayor, the Chairman of the Water Committee, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Superintendent of the Water Department, and the Boiler Inspector. Our only regret is that His Worship, while he was about it, did not order a pump as well as a smoke-stack. That the Water Committee should be consulted about purchases for the Water Department seems eminently proper, but, unfortunately, experience shows that to wait for the Water Committee to act in a time of urgent necessity, is practically out of the question. The members of the Committee are putting themselves in the ridiculous position of not doing anything of importance themselves and of objecting when anybody else does.

More Police. We are glad to see that the Police Committee has recommended the appointment of two hundred new policemen. There is no doubt that one of Montreal's needs to-day is more police. Montreal has grown and is growing much faster than its police force. Not only has the additional area to be considered, but the additional police responsibilities in the value of property to be protected and in the control of street traffic. Policemen are badly required at crossings in congested districts to regulate the traffic. Accidents will occur and lives will be lost if this is not attended to. It would be well to get a few men experienced in this special class of work. Montreal in a short time would not know itself, traffic would be so easily conducted if properly regulated. We are quite in sympathy with the idea of paying the policemen reasonable wages. We cannot expect to get or to retain the services of the best men at the present rate of pay.

The Grain Movement. The quantity of grain in the elevators at Port Arthur and Fort William is said to be more than six million bushels, or a hundred per cent. more than was held a year ago. The grain is coming in by rail faster than it goes out by water, a fact which suggests that the stories about car shortage are, as Mark Twain said about the report of his own death "greatly exaggerated."

Financial and Insurance Items

MR. ROBERT W. TYRE, manager of the Northern Assurance Company, spent some weeks in the West recently visiting the agencies of his company. Mr. Tyre appeared much impressed with the great railway development and consequent general growth of the country apparent on every side. The crops in some sections of the country, such as Portage la Prairie, Saskatchewan, etc., are the best on record, while in other sections they are not so good, but he states, it is generally conceded, that farmers in the West will receive more money for their crops this year than heretofore. Referring to the moving of the crops, he believes the most serious drawback, is a lack of cars. The C.P.R. he states, are doing all that is possible, to mitigate matters. The business of the Northern in the West has materially increased with the growth of the country.

THE HON. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX reports that he is making satisfactory progress in his negotiations with Japan. He does not propose any change in the present treaty, but an amicable understanding between the governments interested, to restrict Japanese emigration to Canada, within reasonable bounds. Mr. Lemieux seems to be in a fair way to show what can be accomplished in solving a difficult international issue by abstaining from the traditional bluster which characterizes modern press-ridden and agitator-ridden diplomacy.

MR. J. E. E. DICKSON, manager of the Law Union & Crown Insurance Company, has returned from a business trip to the Lower Provinces. While in Prince Edward Island he learned that the crops there, this year, are the best on record. In New Brunswick on the other hand, too much rain, has had an unfavourable affect on some crops. He reports the following appointments. Mr. G. E. Henderson, general agent for P.E.I. Mr. Douglas Gordon, Summerside local agent.

MR. E. H. BISSET, city manager for the Canada Life at Toronto, has been promoted to the Detroit managership. Mr. Bisset's record as a business writer, and his well-known social qualities ensure his success in his important new field.

THE RETURNS OF THE TEMISKAMING RAILWAY for August show a net increase of \$5,000 over last year. The receipts were \$82,457 and the expenditure \$62,813, leaving a net balance (something unusual in government railways) of \$19,644.

THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT'S ESTIMATE OF \$640,000 as the amount to be derived from the Supplementary Revenue tax, has already been exceeded and there is a considerable amount still to be collected.

MR. B. HAL BROWN, manager, London & Lancashire Life Insurance Company, is visiting some of the agencies of his company in the West. The company will show a substantial increase this year.

WE HAVE NOT SEEN that Mr. Andrew Carnegie has yet expressed himself on the financial situation.