

**FOREST FIRES AND CAUTION**

Northern Ontario has again been the scene of disastrous forest fires this week. While sympathy is extended to those who have suffered, development in the north with a greater regard to fire waste than has been shown hitherto, would conserve much time, energy, capital and labor. In the recent fires, the danger of the contiguity of thickly wooded land to new towns has again been emphasized. This is noticeable in several towns where the bush is far too near the community. With the wind in a certain direction, a forest fire near the town might easily prove a serious menace and cause disaster.

The use of lumber in construction is more or less imperative in the early stages of town building in the north, but proper fire protection should be established to counteract the fire risk thus created. The building of cement and brick structures should be encouraged. The municipal authorities may properly take the lead in this direction.

**CANADIAN PROVINCIAL SECURITIES**

In the autumn, Canada's provincial premiers will meet at Ottawa to discuss several important matters with the federal government. This will prove an excellent opportunity to consider joint representation to the British government with a view to the inclusion of Canadian provincial securities in the British Trustee List. *The Monetary Times* has advocated this proceeding for many years. Last week, in correspondence with the premiers, we learned it is their general desire to consider the subject at the coming conference and to urge upon the proper authorities that action should be taken.

Since the present Ontario government has been in office the question has been considered and dealt with several times. The late provincial treasurer, Honorable Colonel Matheson, on several occasions brought the subject to the notice of people interested in Great Britain. Among the objections raised by the Home authorities have been:—

(1) That it would have a tendency to lower the price of Consols.

(2) That while the Home Government has power to disallow any legislation of the Parliament of Canada, it has no power to disallow the legislation of any of the provinces.

It is unlikely that any success will be obtained in the matter until the Dominion Government throws its heart and soul into the project. Luke-warm interest at Ottawa is not sufficient to impress the Imperial government with the strength of feeling regarding the matter in this country. We do not believe that the home authorities will allow the price of Consols to act as an obstacle, and we think that the Provincial governments of Canada will be willing to take every proper legal step to make possible the inclusion of their securities in the British Trustee List.

**THE UNION LIFE COLLAPSE**

The winding-up of the Union Life Assurance Company is a course which is in the best interests of policyholders and shareholders. The Canadian Associated Press last week was given to understand that the movement to wind up the company will not be resisted by the English shareholders. It was necessary for the shareholders, as shown at the recent meeting, to raise £75,000 additional capital, and, despite all the endeavors of the most prominent of them, this has not been done.

Further enquiries, however, showed that £30,000 of the £75,000 required was actually subscribed. Certain

shareholders are keenly disappointed at the failure, and there is talk of a still further attempt to prevent the collapse.

*The Monetary Times* is inclined to think that the English shareholders should keep the £75,000 in their pockets and let matters take the course advised by the Department of Insurance at Ottawa. The officials there never counsel liquidation proceedings unless they are sure that every proper effort to save an insurance company has been made. Indeed, we think in their efforts to keep a company in business, for the sake of the policyholders, shareholders and Canadian credit, they sometimes allow the company too much rope. However, Mr. White, Minister of Finance; Mr. Fitzgerald, superintendent of insurance, and their assistants are quite decided that liquidation and reinsurance is the only sane course, and with that *The Monetary Times* is in full agreement.

The company is in deep water, and for the English shareholders to put a further £75,000 into it, as they propose, would be only to throw good money after good money gone bad. The Superintendent of Insurance says that the company is insolvent, that its capital stock is impaired, and not likely to be restored within one year, that its license has expired, and has not been renewed within thirty days, and that it is, for other reasons, just and equitable, the company should be wound up.

As to the policyholders, it is, indeed, fortunate that such a strong and reputable company as the Metropolitan Life of New York has agreed to reinsure them. This corporation could scarcely have offered better treatment than they have to the Union Life policyholders. They will be reinsured on the same basis upon which their old policies were issued. The many policyholders who allowed their policies to lapse when the Union Life troubles commenced, may have their policies renewed without medical examination upon payment of the back premiums. Again, policyholders who allowed their policies to lapse are not obliged to continue with the Metropolitan Life, but may realize upon their policies on the terms under which they were issued. Not many, if any, policyholders are likely to do that. Now that they carry insurance, they should continue to do so and not let their policies lapse. They may feel confident in the reputation and stability of the Metropolitan Life, who will take over the policies.

**SMALL CHANGE**

Now have come days when the financial weeds wither and die.

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In the excitement of the moment, some of them called him Thorn Payne.

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There is a whole lot about "Domestic Money" that never gets printed.

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If President Wilson needs any pointers on lobbying, Toronto's city hall might help.

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If you want the British investor even to glance at the bait, it must be five per cent.

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After all, we are only learning again that he who goes a-borrowing goes a-sorrowing.

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The first sign of the coming winter is the receipt of advertising for *The Monetary Times Annual*.

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Some of these moving picture company stock offerings should also be "passed by the board of censors."

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Canada has 535,000,000 acres of forest land. As an Ottawa official says, if you do not believe this, count them.