

"Electric displays where motors are used and where electric currents are shunted or broken on different circuits for advertising purposes will not be approved by this board unless the devices for motive power and for the shunting and breaking of currents on different circuits are installed in a fire-proof enclosure and the entire apparatus in connection with such displays is specifically approved by certificate obtained from the electric bureau of this board, on application with details filed with the board at least ten days in advance of the time for using such displays.

"Attention is also called to the fact that fire insurance contracts demand that all additions, alterations and changes in electric equipments, made after certificates have been issued, must be approved by this board."

Besides above risks of the winter season, there are extra dangers of over heating stoves and furnaces, the neglect of repairs to them and of precautions to guard woodwork from heated piping. Since the coal famine set in there have been numerous old style stoves brought into use for burning wood. There has been an installation also of oil-stoves for heating and cooking. All these changes invoke new and increased risks against which public cautions should be issued and warnings that they may render fire policies void.

CANADIAN BANKERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of this Association was held at Toronto yesterday. The meeting of the executive council was held in Parliament buildings on Wednesday, when important business was discussed and preparations made for the annual meeting. A banquet was held on Wednesday night at the Toronto Club. The visiting bankers present were: The president, Mr. E. S. Clouston, general manager of the Bank of Montreal; Mr. George Hague, honorary president; Messrs. James Elliott, general manager Molsons Bank; Thos. McDougall, general manager Quebec Bank; Thos. Fyshe, general manager Merchants Bank of Canada; E. L. Pease, general manager Royal Bank of Canada; H. Stikeman, general manager Bank of British North America; W. M. Macpherson, president Molsons Bank; M. J. A. Prendergast, general manager Hochelaga Bank; George Burn, general manager Bank of Ottawa; F. H. Mathewson, Montreal manager Canadian Bank of Commerce; C. Bogart, Montreal manager Dominion Bank of Canada, and others. Further details will be given in our next issue.

PROMINENT TOPICS.

The vacancy in the Cabinet has at last been filled by the appointment of the Hon. Mr. Sutherland as Minister of Public Works, for the portfolio of which he has given up that of Marine and Fisheries, to which department the Hon. Raymond Prefontaine, M.P., K.C., ex-Mayor of Montreal, has been appointed.

The range of the duties and powers of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is proposed to be widened by adding the St. Lawrence river works to the Marine Department. With them will go the service of building and maintaining wharves in the different waters of the Dominion. This will give the Marine and Fisheries department the oversight of what is commonly known as transportation. This arrangement will considerably heighten the importance of the Marine and Fisheries department and enlarge the Minister's sphere of duty and responsibility. The Hon. Mr. Prefontaine having been an active member of the Montreal Harbour Board is well acquainted with the affairs and needs of this port, as well as with the requirements for improving the navigation of the St. Lawrence. Into efforts for promoting necessary works he will no doubt throw his well-known energies and will endeavour to have his progressive ideas carried out.

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A movement appears to be on foot to introduce changes into the charter of this city. The alleged amendments are of small importance, certainly not sufficient to justify tampering with the settlement made only a very few years ago. The charter of a city is its written constitution under which it is governed, on the observance of which depends the validity of the acts of the Council, more especially those affecting the city's finances. It is not wise to treat a charter as a provisional arrangement which is liable to be changed whenever some persons desire alterations of no material importance to be made. If such small changes are made to gratify a few persons, others will agitate for changes to suit their ideas or purposes, and the result will be that the charter will be generally discredited and the impression created that this is a fickle city. Better let the charter alone until a reasonable time has been given for its working to be fully tested, which is not the case at present.

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The indisposition of the Hon. Mr. Laurier is much to be regretted. The sanguine views expressed on his arrival from Europe as to his convalescence appear to have been premature. We trust, however, that a few weeks rest, combined with medical treatment, will restore the Premier to perfect health.