

Mr. J. W. Flavelle in a recent public speech said: "Let us bear in mind this is not the banks' trouble. A great number of us seem to have the impression that the only reason that we are unable to borrow all the money we need is because the banks are unreasonable and won't lend it. After all, the amount of resources which we have liquid in this country is comparatively limited. What do our friends the bankers have to do? They are trustees to hold these liquid resources of this country available for the need of this country, distributing them as best they may over the largest surface possible to accomplish the best result."

The same point was made in an interview recently given by Mr. G. B. Schofield, general manager of the Standard Bank of Canada. After stating that the Canadian banks would still stand in most intimate relationship with the manufacturing, agricultural and commercial life of Canada, he added: "Now, the role so long played cannot be cast aside, even if the banks wished to do so; which, as I need not say, they have no desire to do. At the same time, the banks must of necessity be very careful what they do with the people's deposits at this trying time. We must, above all, see to it that we keep our assets liquid. While every aid will be given to legitimate business enterprise, we must be doubly careful to see that such funds as are advanced are not placed in fixed capital forms. Now, as never before, it is necessary to keep our resources in a fluid form."

The Canadian banks have on loan to municipalities throughout Canada at the present time more than \$40,000,000. Since 1905, Canadian municipalities have borrowed over \$200,000,000, while they have raised also large sums in Canada and the United States. It is not contended that municipal development has ceased in this country, but owing to the economic depression and the advent of the war, much of that development is suspended temporarily.

At the same time *The Canadian Engineer* reiterates its opinion that governments, federal, provincial and municipal in times of extreme trade depression, should spend money on public work so far as proper economy dictates. So long as there is a sound method of financing such works, the banks will probably be found willing to take the necessary action. In a time such as the present, and in view of the fact that the theatre of war is not actually on Canadian soil, the Dominion Government well might employ fairly substantial sums upon certain public works, consistent with economy. Private borrowers will hesitate considerably at present because Canada's chief lender (Great Britain) has a bigger job on hand now than loaning money to its overseas dominions. Indeed, private borrowers, in which are included corporations, are almost helpless, except for funds in hand and for the possibility of borrowing elsewhere than in Great Britain.

It is reported that timber limits extending over 115 square miles along the foreshore of Seymour Inlet and adjacent waters in British Columbia, including 3,000,000,000 feet of high-grade cedar, were recently transferred to a syndicate of capitalists from the United States. It is said to be the intention of the purchasers to begin logging operations on the limits in the near future, and the plans contemplate placing several sawmills on the property. The scarcity of cedar and the increasing price of high-grade timber in the United States have caused American millmen to turn their attention to British Columbia, which has the largest compact area of merchantable timber on the continent. The abolition of the duty on Canadian shingles and other forest products has encouraged and given impetus to the shingle industry, which has made great progress in the province recently.

## DEEPENING OF BURNETTE RIVER, B.C.

A very interesting drainage project is being carried out by the Vancouver and Districts Joint Sewerage and Drainage Board. The Burnette River is being deepened between Burnaby Lake and the eastern boundary of the municipality of that name. The new channel will regulate the size of Burnaby Lake. It forms a part of the sewerage scheme reported upon by Mr. R. S. Lee, consulting engineer, Montreal, and adopted by the municipalities. The scheme divides the Burrard Peninsula into several areas according to the bodies of water into which each drains. One of these is the watershed emptying into Burnaby Lake. The report, taking cognizance of the fact that the lake could hold a very limited amount of domestic sewage, but almost unlimited natural drainage, provided that an intercepting sewer be ultimately built around the south shore of the lake; but that for the present, and until the district had become more densely populated (the domestic sewage now being almost negligible), surface water might be allowed to flow into the lake.

The rise in the lake each spring is considerable, owing to the nature of the country surrounding it and also to a ledge of rock at the outlet into Burnette River which prevents more than a certain flow. The lake is thereby rendered more or less stagnant. The Joint Sewerage Commission, therefore, started during the summer on the task of deepening the river. A mile or more at the eastern end of the municipality has been dredged and cleared of boulders and logs which impeded the stream flow. Further up the stream the rock bed has been blasted out to a uniform depth of 6 or 7 ft. lower than the original depth. This cut, about 7 ft. in width and a mile or more in length, conforms to the old bed of the river. A temporary diverting flume is used to deviate the stream from the site of operations.

The Sewerage Board expects to continue the work well into the coming winter. This will necessitate a different method of flow control. It is proposed to dam back the flow a short distance from the outlet of the lake and to curtail it during the 8 hours of each working day, allowing the accumulated water to run off during the intervening 16 hours.

The work will result in a uniform depth, during summer and winter, of Burnaby Lake. It will greatly facilitate the drainage scheme and will permit the reclamation of a considerable area previously subject to floods in the rainy season. Eventually the level of the lake will be lowered several feet and approximately 150 acres more land will be thereby reclaimed. The Provincial Government has been approached with a proposal to convert the lake and its surroundings into a park.

The "Vita" the third of three similar steamers, which are being built at the Neptune Works of Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson, Limited, for the British Indian Steam Navigation Co., Limited, for the service of that company between India and the Persian Gulf, was launched on August 24. She is a twin screw steamer, 390 ft. in length by 53 ft. beam by 26½ ft. in depth, and has accommodation for first and second-class passengers, together with space for a large number of native passengers. The propelling machinery is being built by Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson, Limited, at their Neptune Works, and consists of two sets of triple expansion engines with six large boilers of sufficient power for a speed of 16 knots. The auxiliary machinery is very complete and includes 8 steam winches, steam warping winch, steam steering gear, steam capstan, steam windlass, electric light and ventilation, wireless telegraphy, refrigerating machinery, etc.