

this question finds that there is insufficient co-operation in the matter between the Dominion and the Provincial Governments. If both Governments, says the Lumberman, were to unite in supporting the various fighting forces, and the Provincial Government were to superintend the work it is reasonable to hope that the service might shortly be placed upon an effective basis.

"That the problem" continues the Lumberman, "requires the services of the most energetic and resourceful minds is evident from the fact that, during the month of July alone, the forest fire loss amounted to \$40,000 in British Columbia, and that \$317,760 worth of improvements were destroyed. No less than 401 fires were attended to by the provincial forces, at a cost of \$40,163 in salaries and expenses, and private companies and individuals are estimated to have spent a further sum of \$20,000. Of the 401 fires, 25 p.c. are attributed to C.P.R. locomotives; 95 per cent. of the fires were discovered in time to extinguish without much loss. Eight lives were sacrificed as a result of the fires during the one month."

"Mr. W. C. Gladwin, chief fire warden of British Columbia, in his report upon these fires, makes the suggestion that the railway companies should be obliged to use oil for fuel in the timbered sections of the country, even if this involved bonusing the railways for each engine thus equipped. He believes that it is impossible to prevent the escape of cinders by a screen, and at the same time allow sufficient draft for the engine. Another suggestion which he makes is that screens should be placed upon the windows of all the smoking compartments, as many fires are started by smokers throwing away cigars and cigarette stubs. One so frequently hears these and many other important preventive measures advocated, and yet the fires have occurred with such discouraging regularity that it seems as though nothing effective will ever be devised or put into practice. There is no good reason for taking such a pessimistic view of the matter, and there is one way, and one only, for stopping the loss by forest fires. That is to settle at once and for ever upon a responsible body in each province, and then after making diligent enquiry as to causes and methods, to set to work vigorously with the determined intention of adopting every practical measure. Not until this has been done will the governments of the country be acquitted of the charge that they are carelessly permitting one of the most valuable natural resources to go to needless waste."

Large Lumber Deal.

A Nelson, B.C., message says that the Dominion Sawmills & Lumber Company, an English corporation already controlling the Mundy Lumber Company, of Three Valleys, B.C., has acquired the interests of the Bowman Lumber Company, the Revelstoke Sawmills Company, and the Yale Columbia Lumber Company. This is said to be the biggest timber deal in the history of Kootenay, and involves over a million dollars. The deal includes four sawmills, including a big mill at Nelson, and 240 square miles of timber limits on which are three and a half million feet in standing timber.

Attracting British Settlers.

A movement is on foot to attract systematically British settlers to the Kootenay. The scheme en-

tails an annual expenditure of \$15,000, and the opening of an office in England with a representative there to carry on a personal campaign with prospective settlers and investors. A sum of \$5,000 is to be raised by business men of Nelson and the city at large. This is to be supplemented by real estate men of the city and West Kootenay maintaining a London agency at not less than \$5,000. It is believed that there will be no difficulty in raising the required sum and that the effect on the prosperity and growth of the district will be great.

British Columbia's Apples.

The first Canadian National Apple Show has just taken place in Vancouver. It has been organized by Mr. Maxwell Smith, who was for seven years the Dominion Government's fruit inspector for the Province of British Columbia; and included an immense number of exhibits not only from British Columbia but from other parts of Canada and from several of the States south of the boundary. It is stated to be the aim of the organisers to hold subsequent shows in eastern centres, the idea being that the show will enable apple growers to judge what varieties are most in demand and what may be most successfully grown in respective districts. It is thought that this show will stimulate considerably the fruit growing industry in British Columbia and that eventually the markets of the prairie provinces will be supplied very largely by British Columbian fruit.

Correspondence

BANK RESERVES AND DOUBLE LIABILITY.

AN ENQUIRY FROM BRIGHTON, ENG.

To the Editor of The Chronicle:—

SIR.—Referring to an article in THE CHRONICLE of October 14, on "Dr. Johnson's Report on Canadian Banking" in the second column on page 1487 I find a remark that,

"The holder of bank stock regards his investment the more complacently when he knows that the bank has a rest equal to its capital; and his readiness to subscribe to new stock is greater because of his freedom from uneasiness regarding the double liability."

Now, undoubtedly, the existence of a rest, whether equal to the capital or not, confers additional safety, by increasing the assets, against the double liability being brought into action, but I believe does not obviate this as a last resort.

I have been informed, by officials of the Bank of Montreal, that their rest, in case of necessity, would be used to liquidate claims against the Bank, but that in case of this not proving sufficient, the stockholders would still be liable for an amount up to the value of their holdings (in addition to the loss of their original capital). I should be glad if you would give me any information as to this in THE CHRONICLE.

Yours faithfully,

W. B.

Brighton, 27th October, 1910.

[The facts are as have been stated to our correspondent by officials of the Bank of Montreal.