

### THE EMPIRE'S MAKE-UP

Since the spring of 1912, the Dominions Royal Commission, composed of representatives of the British, Canadian, Australian, South African, New Zealand, and Newfoundland governments, have toured the British Empire to investigate its natural resources, trade and make-up. The war interrupted their important investigation which was resumed on the Pacific Coast of Canada last month. Since the appointment of the commissioners, war has brought questions of economic readjustment and reconstruction throughout the Empire. The final report of the Dominions Royal Commission, therefore, which will probably be issued early next year, will prove of great value for after-war work, a fact which naturally was not in mind when the sittings were commenced.

Sir George Foster, the Canadian representative on the commission, made the following statement while in Winnipeg, regarding its general purpose and work.

"Our report will probably come out just about the time the war is drawing to its close and all this added

activity and interest is thrown into the business of answering the question: On what lines must we proceed in the future? What reconstruction must we make? What allocation of powers, organized and co-ordinated, must we undertake so as to do the best for the Empire?"

"We expect to have our report completed by the end of January. We will proceed from Canada to London, where our secretaries are at work tabulating the information and drawing out a sketch of the work. If we are fortunate in touching the imagination or the business sense of the Empire we will get a place for our information and our report which it could not have got if circumstances had been normal."

After the Western Canadian tour during the past few weeks, Toronto, Hamilton and Guelph and other points in Ontario were visited last week, and sittings at Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec cities this week and next will conclude the public hearings. The information which has been gathered by the commission will make an extremely valuable portfolio. It is to be hoped that the governments of the Empire will be able to take telling action on the report.

### RECENT FIRES

#### The Monetary Times' Weekly Register of Fire Losses and Insurance

**Athabasca, Alta.**—October 9—Sacred Heart Hospital. Loss, \$20,000. Cause, exploded oil lamp. Three deaths.

**Belleville, Ont.**—October 19—Frankford cheese factory. Loss, \$8,000.

**Blind River, Ont.**—October 21—Casino Opera House, Mrs. McNamara's residence, Mr. R. J. Inkster's confectionery store, Mr. J. R. Albert's general store, Mr. M. Solomon's store. Loss, \$20,000.

**Borden Camp, Ont.**—October 16—Headquarters' mess-room, etc. Loss, \$4,000.

**Brantford, Ont.**—October 4—Shed at Brantford Golf and Country Club.

**Brantford, Ont.**—October 20—Mr. Cooper's building, 17 Sarah Street.

**Bronte, Ont.**—October 10—Grand Trunk Railway station. Loss, \$5,000.

**Chatham, Ont.**—October 4—Mr. F. Middleton's barns, 14th Concession Raleigh township. Loss, \$6,000. Cause unknown.

**Cornwall, Ont.**—October 20—Mr. A. Preshaw's farm buildings, between Hogansburg and Helena. Loss, \$10,000; insurance, \$3,000.

**Fredericton, N.B.**—October 2—Mr. R. Howard's residence, Gibson. Loss, \$1,500. Cause not stated.

**Helena, Ont.**—October 20—Mr. S. Lebarge's hotel barn and Mrs. Pealo's barn. Loss, \$1,500; insurance, \$1,000.

**Lindsay, Ont.**—October 5—Flavelles, Limited, produce plant. Loss, estimated, \$300,000. The following insurance was carried: On building and machinery: Caledonian, \$5,000; Commercial Union, \$5,000; Gore District Mutual, \$5,000; North British and Mercantile, \$9,500; Northern, \$5,000; Royal Exchange, \$5,000; Liverpool-Manitoba, \$5,000; total, \$39,500. On stock: Caledonian, \$10,000; Commercial Union, \$20,000; North British and Mercantile, \$25,000; Northern, \$15,000; Royal Exchange, \$15,000; Liverpool-Manitoba, \$10,000; Fidelity-Phenix, \$15,000; Globe and Rutgers, \$5,000; Mount Royal, \$6,000; National of Paris, \$4,000; Phoenix of London, \$20,000; St. Paul Fire and Marine, \$5,000; Sun, \$10,000; Central Manufacturers, \$4,450; North River, \$20,000; Peoples National, \$6,800; Merchants, \$5,000; Richmond, \$5,000; Lloyds of London, \$53,750; total, \$255,000.

October 17—Office and plant of Machine Automatic Telephone Company.

**London, Ont.**—October 20—Messrs. W. A. Jenkins Manufacturing Company's factory. Loss, \$30,000. Cause unknown.

**Nashwaaksis, N.B.**—October 7—Mr. M. Wills' residence. Loss, \$7,000. Cause, spontaneous combustion.

**Newcastle, N.B.**—October 10—Mr. A. McLean's barn, Douglstown. Loss, \$2,000; insurance, \$300.

**Niagara Falls, Ont.**—October 5—Barn rear of the Shredded Wheat Company's factory.

**Ottawa, Ont.**—October 5—Mrs. M. Finlis's boarding-house, 77 O'Connor Street. Loss, \$300.

**Petrolia, Ont.**—October 8—Petrolia Wagon Works. Loss, \$30,000. Cause unknown. Insured.

October 17—Mr. M. McCarroll's residence, North Monaghan. Cause, overheated stovepipe.

**Pontypool, Ont.**—October 12—Methodist church and four residences. Loss, \$10,000.

**Port Hammond, B.C.**—October 14—Business section, including Dale Hall, Dale store, hotel, Bank of Hamilton, etc. Loss, \$70,000.

**Renfrew, Ont.**—October 4—Messrs. Limbleau and Son's machine shop. Loss, \$3,000.

**Rimouski, Que.**—October 20—Monastery of the Brothers of the Cross of Jesus. Loss, \$25,000; insurance, \$3,000.

**Saanich, B.C.**—October 10—Prairie Hotel, Saanichton. Loss, \$2,000.

**St. Stephens, N.B.**—October 17—Messrs. Haley and Son's lumber and planing mill. Loss, \$100,000; insurance, \$58,500.

**Saltcoats, Sask.**—October 13—Commercial livery stables. Cause unknown.

**Scarboro' Township, Ont.**—October 22—Mr. C. C. Cummings' residence, Kingston Road. Loss, \$5,000.

**South Middleton, Ont.**—October 22—Mr. J. Francis' cheese-box factory.

**Sutton, Que.**—October 20—Mr. A. Lacroix's residence. One death.

**Tofield, Alta.**—October 5—High School. Loss, \$9,000. Insurance, building, \$7,500; equipment, \$1,000. Cause unknown.

**Tranquility, Ont.**—October 17—Mr. P. Johnson's barns. Loss, \$5,000; partially insured.

**Usborne Township, Ont.**—October 11—Mr. C. Skinner's barns. Cause, suppose grain straw around windmill shaft caused heating.

**Vancouver, B.C.**—October 5—Mr. M. P. Cotton's residence, Shaughnessy Heights. Loss, \$3,000.

October 9—Braemar School, Shaughnessy Heights. Loss, \$20. Chinese restaurant, 91 Pender Street East. Loss, \$300.