

MARRIED WOMEN'S BANK ACCOUNTS.

The Province of Quebec is peculiar from all provinces in its laws regarding married women's accounts. In connection with such accounts one fact was established in the recent decision of *Stuart vs. Bank of Montreal*, which laid down that a married woman's guarantee of endorsement for her husband is absolutely useless unless she receives independent advice, that is, from a lawyer who is not her husband's advisor and such lawyer must sign a declaration to this effect.

This decision holds good in all provinces; consequently, the taking of security from a married woman must be completed by the lawyer's ratification. In Quebec the law is very much more stringent; practically speaking, a married woman has no rights. In view of this it is essential that banks exercise the greatest caution in dealing with their accounts.

The law is that no woman can conduct a bank account without the authority of her husband, that is she cannot deposit or withdraw money of her own free will, except amounts not exceeding \$500 in all.

In view of this, if a married woman wishes to open an account full particulars should be taken when the account is opened. This information must include the name of her husband and post-office address; also a letter of authorization should be obtained from her husband, giving his wife power to open an account and conduct it along such lines as she will arrange with the bank.

A peculiar effect of this law appears to be that unless a bank held this authority, the husband can come and withdraw his wife's money. The writer, however, is not quite sure as to this. It is, however, fairly well established that if a bank paid cheques in excess of \$500, and should be sued by the husband for the return of such monies, his action would no doubt succeed.—*Sterling Bank Teller.*

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION STILL INADEQUATE.

The numerous and, in some cases, serious forest fires, which occurred throughout Eastern Canada in May, prove that, while much is being done by the various provincial governments and other agencies, in forest fire protection, the provision is still inadequate in case of an extended drought. The strict enforcement of the permit system for the burning of settlers' slash would very materially reduce the number of fires. It is, however, hardly to be expected that, with the vast areas of forest lands, and the relatively small population to bear the burden, adequate fire protection can be secured on cut-over forest lands so long as practically no requirements are imposed upon lumbermen as to the disposal of inflammable debris resulting from woods operations. The policy adopted by the British Columbia government in this matter is the most progressive of any in Canada.

A new French law of interest to Canadian financial circles is one which goes into force on July 1, and requires a tax of 5 per cent. to be collected upon income received in France from foreign stocks, bonds and other securities of all kinds.

A HOTEL AND RESTAURANT HAZARD.

One of the "most common" causes attributed to fire in the above class of risks is the ignition of greasy vapors in the vent pipe of the kitchen hoods caused by flash fires on the coal or gas ranges, broilers or griddles. These vent pipes in many cases are of very light material (entirely inadequate to withstand grease fires) and are sometimes soldered at the joints. The vent pipes or flues should be constructed no less substantially than the brick flues or heavy iron stacks of steam boilers.

The New York Board of Fire Underwriters is now requiring all vent hoods to be equipped with a steam jet connection ($\frac{3}{4}$ -inch to 1-inch piping) with an ordinary hand valve close by, to be turned on should a fire occur in the vent. In some breweries the steam jet connected to the malt mill and the elevator leg is made automatic in the following manner:

Have the steam pipe connected (with steam trap) direct to a safety valve arranged to be normally open by means of a counterweight. Fasten a twine to end of lever holding counterweight, over a loop with weight attached to keep safety valve closed; then insert twine in and across vent flue and fasten to outside wall. In the event of a fire in the flue the twine would burn and automatically release the steam, the operation being similar to that now used in many malt mills. In my opinion this would be a more efficient way of safeguarding this important hazard.—*Charles C. Dominge, Insurance Engineer.*

METROPOLITAN LIFE'S SANATORIUM.

A notable beneficence of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York was formally inaugurated last Saturday by the dedication of a sanatorium at Mount McGregor, N.Y. This institution has been built by the Company for the free care and treatment of its own employees, both in the Home Office and in the field, who may have tuberculosis. The Metropolitan's employees number over fifteen thousand, and on inquiry a year or two ago it was found that a normal proportion of them are afflicted with tuberculosis. By arrangement with the then Superintendent of Insurance, the consent of the Supreme Court of the State of New York was obtained to the acquisition of the necessary site for this purpose, and in the decision giving this consent, the Court laid down the broad and important principle of law that it is not only the right, but the duty of directors of Corporations to take reasonable care of their employees without, necessarily, a prior consultation with stockholders.

When fully completed, the new sanatorium will accommodate 200 patients. Wards which have already been erected accommodate 75, and an order has been given for additional wards to be built during the present summer. By the time that that the whole scheme is complete, this sanatorium will probably have cost the Metropolitan about one million dollars. This splendid example of care for employees is only part of the Metropolitan's campaign against tuberculosis which includes the publication and distribution of many thousand pamphlets among the Company's industrial policyholders, exhibits at various public fairs and exhibitions, and the nursing of sick policyholders free of charge.