

Mentioned in Despatches

W. S. DEBTLOR, who has been appointed Assistant Manager of the Windsor Hotel, has had some 20 odd years' service with the Canadian Pacific Railway. Among other hotels he managed were the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, and the Royal Alexandra, Winnipeg.

COLONEL BIRKETT, who has been recalled to England to help out in hospital work, is dean of the Medical Faculty of McGill. Colonel Birkett went overseas early in the war in charge of the McGill Hospital Unit, and returned only a few months ago. Much of the success which was achieved by the McGill hospital overseas is traceable to his organizing and surgical abilities.

H. A. GARFIELD, United States Fuel Administrator, has resigned and will relinquish his duties on December 31st. Garfield is a son of former President Garfield, of the United States. Before becoming one of the Government's officials he was president of Williams College. Garfield has done most efficient work as Fuel Administrator.

MAJOR R. F. PARKINSON, D.S.O., who went overseas with the 38th (Ottawa) battalion, has been promoted Lieut.-Col. Before going overseas Col. Parkinson was managing director of the Ottawa Journal. He was born in Oxford County, Ontario, educated at Woodstock, and went into newspaper work in that city, later coming to Montreal, where he worked on The Witness, going from there to Ottawa.

L. J. J. STARK, who died suddenly a few days ago, was general manager of the Dominion Gresham Guarantee and Casualty Co. Mr. Stark was born at Beauharnois in 1875, and began his business career with the Bell Telephone Co., later going into the insurance business, in which he won rapid promotion.

THE HON. CARTER GLASS, Member for Congress for Virginia, has been offered the Secretaryship of the Treasury was made vacant by W. G. McAdoo. Glass was born in Virginia in 1858, learned the printing trade, afterwards owning and editing newspapers at Lynchburg. He has been a Member of Congress for a great many years, and for some time has been chairman of the Banking and Currency Committee.

CARDINAL MERCIER, who is going to visit Canada and the United States to thank the people of these two countries for what they have done for Belgium, has been a thorn in the flesh of the Germans. Mercier refused to submit to German domination, and repeatedly protested against their atrocities, appealing to the Pope and neutral powers for their assistance. His unconquerable spirit had much to do with the resistance offered by the Belgians.

STEPHEN LAUZANNE, who spoke in Montreal a few days ago, is editor of "Le Matin," of Paris, and has been head of the French Mission in the United States for the past two years. Lauzanne has done a great deal to make the Allies' aims, especially those of France, familiar to the people of this continent. As editor of "Le Matin," he was one of the best informed and most influential men in Paris. He recently published a book entitled "Fighting France."

CAWTHRA MULOCK, head of the Toronto stock brokerage firm, Cawthra Mulock and Co., president of the Maple Leaf Milling Co., and of the Canada Bread Co., and a director of several other large corporations, died in New York a few days ago from Spanish Influenza. Mulock was the second son of Chief Justice Sir William Mulock, and was a son-in-law of Chief Justice Sir Glenhorne Falconbridge. He inherited several millions from his grandmother, Mrs. Cawthra, and so started out in his business career as one of the wealthiest men in Canada. He was born in Toronto in 1884.

WILLIAM WALSH, General Superintendent of the Eastern branch of the Dominion Express Co., died in Toronto a few days ago. He was born in that city in 1859, and as a young man in his teens went into the express business. He was appointed to his present position some nine years ago.

LIEUT.-COL. J. B. WHITE, who has been made Brigadier-General, has been overseas in connection with the Forestry work since early in the war. Before going overseas General White was connected with the Riordon Pulp Co., in charge of their timber operations. He is an expert forester, and as he was a military officer before going overseas his twofold qualifications made him an ideal man for his work.

CAPT. E. CINQ MARS, a well known Canadian newspaper man, is now Military Governor of Mons. Some years ago Capt. Cinq Mars was appointed King's Printer for this province, and went overseas in 1915, and has been doing his bit ever since. He is a native of Hull.

ROBERT KILGOUR, who died in Toronto a few days ago, was one of the best known business men in that city. Mr. Kilgour was born at Beauharnois, P.Q., 72 years ago, but was associated with Toronto business enterprises for his entire life. The late Mr. Kilgour was formerly Vice-President of the Canadian Bank of Commerce; a former president of the Canadian Furniture Manufacturers; a director of the National Trust, of W. A. Rogers, of F. N. Burt Co., and of the City Dairy, he was also president of the Carter-Crume Co. Associated with his brother he established and was head of the firm of Kilgour Brothers, paper dealers. Mr. Kilgour was very prominent in church and all religious activities, especially as these related to the Presbyterian Church.

Concentrate Fire Prevention Activities

Large business properties scene of most fires

Fire waste in Canada is increasing by leaps and bounds. During the first ten months of 1918 the value of property destroyed by fire was 45 per cent greater than during the same period of 1917 and almost 70 per cent greater than in 1914. From January 1st to October 31st, 1918, no less than 15,927 fires were reported, the aggregate loss being \$28,443,200. On the basis of these figures it is reasonably certain that the total for the year 1918 will exceed \$34,000,000. For the whole twelve months of 1917, the losses were \$25,000,000. If, to the direct fire loss, there be added the expenditure upon insurance and municipal protection, fires will have cost the people of Canada the vast sum of \$65,000,000 or more than 10 per cent of the recent Victory Loan. Faced by economic problems of unparalleled gravity can we afford to be indifferent to this tremendous drain upon our national wealth? If not, what steps are being taken to remedy the condition?

In six of our provinces fire marshal laws have been enacted and departments established to prevent fires. In two provinces, official leagues with hundreds of members have been formed to spread abroad the gospel of fire prevention. The organized insurance interests including over 10,000 agents claim to be doing their utmost to improve conditions and in every city, town and village of importance throughout the Dominion, fire brigades are maintained to extinguish fire. The question naturally arises, what tangible results are being obtained for the \$30,000,000 annually spent upon the services of this organization?

All our attempts to prevent fire waste in Canada have been ineffective because we lack a concerted plan of decisive action. The problem of fighting fires is analogous to the problem of beating the Hun. Success lies in the mode of attack. At the present time, suspicious fires are being investigated, fire departments are subjected to a great deal of unmerited criticism for fires they cannot control, municipal authorities in general are pilloried for their laxity in enforcing local ordinances and the newspapers are being flooded with articles designed to enlighten the public upon the obvious dangers of women kindling fires with coal-oil and children playing with matches. Such campaigns of education are, at best, a trench warfare aimed at wearing down public indifference. Whatever their effect in the future may be, their immediate results are imperceptible.

The frequent statement that Canada's fire loss exceeds that of other countries because of our ignorance of fire dangers and incendiary tendencies is open to proof. What are the facts? Analysis of the fire waste during the first ten months of 1918 shows that, although 15,927 fires occurred and entailed a total loss of \$28,443,200, over \$22,650,000 or 78 per cent of that loss was caused by 234 fires. The actual figures as compiled and classified by the Commission of Conservation are as follows:—

CANADIAN FIRE RECORD, 1918.

(January to October, inclusive)

	No. of Fires	Total loss.
No. of Fires	15,927	\$28,443,200
Fires above \$10,000	234	22,654,500
Manufacturing	108	13,871,000

Mercantile	99	8,339,000
Miscellaneous	27	944,500
Fires above \$100,000	62	16,787,000
Manufacturing	33	10,320,000
Mercantile	24	5,850,000
Miscellaneous	5	617,000
Fires above \$10,000 in Mfg. Risks—		
Metal Workers	24	5,060,000
Wood Workers	27	2,957,000
Food Products	19	2,193,000
Textile Products	18	815,000
Miscellaneous	20	2,346,000

The significance of this statement is clear. Through the negligence of 234 owners and occupants of property, the eight million people of Canada are being burdened with a fire loss of over \$22,000,000 in ten months and stand indicted before the rest of the world as a nation of careless spendthrifts. While 70 to 80 per cent. of Canada's annual fire loss is due to fires in manufacturing plants and business establishments, the time, thought and energy spent upon teaching fire prevention in public schools comes dangerously near to being misdirected. Any education to be effective must be directed toward the real offenders—the owners and occupants of property whose revenues are augmented by neglect of the principles of fire protection and who, through insurance channels, silently capitalize their evasion of public duty.

The only way in which fire waste conditions in Canada can be remedied is by the enforcement of personal responsibility. We may instal water-works, buy fire engines, maintain firemen and establish elaborate insurance schemes from now till eternity, but fire losses will continue to increase in exact ratio to the growth of our national wealth. The greater the responsibility accepted by the community for fire protection the less responsibility is recognized by every individual in the community. That is fundamental. There is no mystery in preventing fires. Every building in Canada can be made reasonably, if not absolutely safe and the means of doing it may be learned for the asking. The personal obligation cannot be discharged by the process of insuring nor escaped by pleading defective building laws, indulgent inspection departments, inefficient fire brigades and other scapegoats of individual carelessness. The property owner who insures to cover his own neglect is gambling with the Canadian public and if the game goes against him he should be made to bear at least a proportion of the loss.—J. G. S. in Conservation.

LIVE WELL BUT STUDY ECONOMY.

Most of the leaders of this generation in all lines of endeavour were raised on the farms of Canada where the mode of living was economical, sound and healthy. If Canada is to forge ahead, it will be by her people adopting the method of living and the simple, healthful food of the last generation. This should be no hardship. People would save money and better health would be theirs to fit them for the reconstruction and upbuilding of Canadian industries of all kinds. Thrift and industry will quickly liquidate Canada's war debts.