

view would indicate that our leading bankers, reputable financial houses, financiers and industrial captains of integrity, together with the financial press, have encouraged the preparation of shady schemes for the British market, and that the Captain had made a sudden discovery. Nothing could be further from the truth. Canadian bankers and leading citizens in every walk of finance and business, together with a strong financial press, have done everything in their power to keep Canadian finance clean, and to encourage the investment of British capital by giving complete satisfaction to that already invested. No end of warnings have been written and wired to London when poor propositions have been sent over there for money. Captain Saunders cannot be ignorant of the fact that most Canadian flotations made in London, worth any consideration at all, are the subject of enquiry in Canada by London interests.

As Sir Edmund Walker has said, new conditions are confronting Canadian enterprise and investment in the Old Land. Difficulty, for instance, has been experienced by the city of Toronto in disposing of its securities in Britain, not because its credit is not good, but because money in the markets of the world is worth more. One important condition Canadians must meet is that they must pay more because money is dearer.

Captain Saunders promises a series of articles in his paper which "will create one of the biggest sensations in the history of British finance." We fear that the Captain has underestimated the discriminating power of the British investor and the legitimate desires of Canadians, at the same time overestimating his spell-binding powers. If his articles are written in the free style of his reported interview, and with such an obvious disregard of the leading facts, we may promise the Captain a present of his sensation for his own consumption.

As a sort of postscript to his interview, it is stated: "An agitation to establish some generally recognized bureau, which will make its sole business the examination of Canadian investment schemes has led to my tour, and will lead to the organization of such a bureau within the very near future."

The organization of such a bureau, we imagine, will have a poor reception at the hands of the London market. *The Monetary Times* has too high an opinion of the common sense of the British investor and the honesty of Canadian bankers, financiers and promoters as a whole to believe that any legitimate concerns desiring to raise funds in London will submit their proposal for analysis by the proposed private bureau.

### TRAINING BANK CLERKS

Promotion in Canadian banking spheres is comparatively rapid. The multiplication of branch banks—there are now in Canada—creates a constant call for well qualified managers. They are in close touch with their head offices, but the contention that their training for manager is not always complete, is perhaps well made. We believe that many of the leading bankers in Canada favor an educative course for bank clerks, that they may be well fitted to assume the responsible duties of higher positions.

The Kansas banking department has evolved such a scheme.

The large number of small banks organized during the past four years, and the little banking experience possessed by many of their officers, has led to frequent complications in management, requiring assistance of the Kansas banking department to straighten things and put the bank in proper condition. Bank Commissioner Dolley has put in operation a plan which he expects to help overcome this. He has established what is in effect a school for bankers.

When a new bank is organized under the State laws, he proposes to see that the officers know what are their duties before allowing them to take up the man-

agement of its affairs. His plan is to call the president and cashier to his office, and require them to submit to an examination.

Questions to be given are not yet fully outlined, and they will vary in some particulars according to the needs of the special cases. In general, however, they will cover the Kansas banking law, the depositor's guarantee law, the negotiable instruments law, the State corporation laws, together with points touching practical and technical banking.

He also intends to include in the questions requests for information that will furnish an estimate of the judgment on financial affairs possessed by the applicant. Should the applicant not succeed in making a required average in the examination, he is to be given suggestions for study, and then given another examination. If he is still obtuse, it is not likely that his selection as an official of the bank will be approved by the bank commissioner. This method, it is believed, will secure a higher standard for bank officers, especially in the smaller communities, where, frequently, the men organizing a bank had no experience with the business whatever.

Admittedly, a banker may qualify largely by keeping in touch with current financial events and reading up-to-date financial literature. The value of the school of experience, too, cannot be underrated. At the same time, there would appear to be room for more assistance for the coming Canadian banker. It will be recalled that Professor Johnson, of New York University, who made a report for the National Monetary Commission of the United States regarding Canada's banking system, commented strongly on this phase. He expressed his regret because of "the seeming indifference of Canadian bankers with regard to the education of their employees."

"When a boy at the age of fifteen enters a Canadian bank, he leaves all hope of education behind," said Professor Johnson. "He will learn a great deal 'by doing' and by contact with strong and successful men, but he will have little chance to improve his mind by systematic study or through attendance upon lectures. His hours will be long, and, from the American point of view, his pay will be small. If he has an iron constitution, sound nerves, and an unconquerable stomach, together with a clear head, a steady will, and a good character, he will some day be manager of a branch, and perhaps a general manager. But he will have to work out his own salvation without the aid or encouragement of the world's best thought and experience. It is to be hoped that the older bankers of Canada will get a conviction of sin on this subject, and through their Bankers' Association make some provision for the intellectual growth of the young fellows in their employ. If they fail on this score, the time may come when the staffs of the Canadian banks, despite their prestige, may no longer contain men of the quality necessary to the making of a first-class general manager."

### CANADA'S FIRE LOSSES

The fire losses in Canada for the first six months of the current year total \$14,740,499, an average of \$2,456,750 per month. This is equal to a daily loss of \$81,891. In other words, \$3,412 worth of property has been burned every hour since the new year dawned, or nearly \$57 every minute.

This is an appalling fire loss, and little is being done to check such extravagant waste of capital. The losses during 1909, 1910 and 1911 are as follows:—

	1909.	1910.	1911.
January . . . . .	\$1,500,000	\$1,275,246	\$2,250,550
February . . . . .	1,263,005	750,625	941,045
March . . . . .	851,690	1,076,253	852,380
April . . . . .	720,650	1,717,237	1,317,900
May . . . . .	3,358,276	2,735,536	2,564,500
June . . . . .	1,300,275	1,500,000	1,151,150