These debentures run 20 and 30 years with interest at 4½ per cent. There will also be for sale $500,000 local improvement debentures to run the same period with similar interest.

It has been estimated that the Canadian banks are to-day carrying approximately $100,000,000 of loans to Canadian municipalities. *The Monetary Times* feels that Canadian municipalities fully appreciate market conditions and the necessity for economy and for financing of necessities only. It is opportune, however, to repeat here the excellent counsel recently given by Sir Edmund Walker in this connection. "Many of our towns and cities," he said, "who have refused to consult the banks find themselves embarrassed as a result, and improvements which may be wise and much needed must be postponed for the moment. The existing securities will doubtless be absorbed in the near future, but at lower prices than heretofore in order to meet the investor's expectations of a higher return.

"Our municipalities, however, should seriously consider whether during periods of such rapid expansion the tax rate should not be largely increased. In the days of western expansion in the United States 25 and 30 mills on a fairly high valuation of property were not uncommon rates. Again, should we not pay for local improvements in a far shorter time than we do? The western cities of the United States make their local improvements by the issue of short term securities, the average life of which is usually not more than five years. Such securities often carry six per cent. interest and do not appeal to the same class of investor as do long-term municipal debentures. We can easily see the bad effect on the credit of our municipalities of adding the heavy cost of local improvements, spread over long terms, to the ordinary general debt."

DOMINION'S DEVELOPMENT SCARCELY STARTED.

Well-Known Banker Sees West as Great Manufacturing Centre—Banking in United States and Canada.

Our country is being developed—has hardly started upon its development. We have its agricultural development, true enough, but in our great west, which some day will be the seat of a great many manufacturing industries, there is now comparatively little manufacturing, was the prophetic statement of Mr. D. R. Wilkie, president of the Imperial Bank, to the New York State Bankers' Association recently at Ottawa.

The condition of affairs there remains pretty much what existed in your west forty years ago, when I remember there was the greatest controversy between the east and the west on the question of protection, and the west in those days, as you will remember, was very frank in its opposition to a protective policy. Our own west is following that same policy pretty well. There is no question about it, our Westerners are not protectionists. They want free land, they want free goods, they want everything free, and they would rather not pay taxes, I believe, if it was their way. They look upon it as a bonus, that they are entitled to a bounty for settling in that country, and perhaps there are some of us who think they are entitled to every consideration.

System of Banking in Keeping with Progress

Now, as regards the encouraging of banking, we often wonder here how it is that you have not developed a system of banking which is in keeping with the progress of the nation and is not a product of war, suggested Mr. Wilkie. We often wonder why you have not, in a measure, adopted our system.

The Canadian system cannot be adopted exactly as we have it, but by the extension of the basis of security for circulation, by admitting real estate, municipal and other undoubted securities as the basis of circulation, and placing them all in a pot, the circulation to be issued against those securities, and the whole circulation to be guaranteed by all the bank stock, and a guarantee fund to be established on say five per cent. of the total amount circulated to be maintained throughout, the funds to be there ready to honor the notes of any bank that came to grief—if some such system were adopted, surely it would do away with what is to-day a policy that makes every man hard-up at the same time. The capital of the country is concentrated in huge centres, and when those centres become congested with loans and securities, the whole pulse of the nation is affected. This is merely a suggestion.

Banks Will Stand by Proposals

Mr. Wilkie, in alluding to banking conditions in the Dominion, remarked:—

"The Bankers' Association of Canada has just gone through a very severe ordeal. We have had our charters renewed by the Dominion Government for another ten years. That is the principle adopted many years ago, and it may be right or wrong, but the public know that the banks themselves are quite prepared to stand by the system. We have just had this act gone into very thoroughly, and there have been some very important amendments to it."

ALBERTA'S FARMERS ARE ACTIVE.

Wool Clip is Large—Moisture Benefits Wheat Growers —Calgary's Taxes—Bankers Take New Appointments.

(Special Correspondence.)

Calgary, June 24th.

The discussion on single tax in the city council of Calgary earlier in the year is renewed again now that the rate has been fixed for 1913. Perhaps the most concise elucidation of the point at issue is contained in the following:

"The commissioners in striking the tax rate have estimated full assessment upon realty and personalty and 25 per cent. of the value of goods. This is the same assessment as last year except that the personalty is increased from 75 per cent. to full value, fixing the rate at 18¾ mills.

"It is interesting to notice that the tax upon buildings might be entirely eliminated and the tax rate would be only 19.8 mills. If the straight single tax was applied, removing all taxes, including buildings, personalty and the collection of all licenses, the tax rate would be 21½ mills. If the assessment eliminated everything but realty and the licenses which have already been collected, or nearly all collected, the rate would be 20.6."

Sheep in Southern Alberta

Sheep men in Southern Alberta are now harvesting their wool crop.

Mr. Roy Arkell, of Ottawa, the Dominion sheep commissioner, visited Calgary after spending some time in the south of the province in the neighborhood of Lethbridge, where shearing was going on. Mr. Arkell will be in Alberta for most of the present month, and will conduct a number of demonstrations in wool at a number of the exhibitions and fairs throughout the province.

Speaking of his work at Lethbridge and in the south, he said that he never had known of more excellent wool than that which was found this year. The shearing was almost over and a great clip of wool had been secured far in excess of anything that had been experienced before in Southern Alberta. The better facilities for shipping which were given this year by the railways made the industry in a better position than ever, and there was nothing to retard its growth.

Undoubtedly the wool industry in Alberta would prosper greatly as the result of the removal of the tariff on wool going into the States.

He also expressed satisfaction at the improved grades of sheep which were brought into the west and the greater care that was being taken in the matter of rearing and breeding.

The first shipment of this year's clip has gone from Barnwell, near Lethbridge, sent out by Mr. P. C. Harvey, president of the Southern Alberta Wool Growers' Association. The Southern Alberta horse ranch which last season was given up to sheep raising by the importation of nearly 5,000 from the States, is having its first clip, which is also all that could be desired.

Crops and Moisture

More rain fell this week and the threatened damage to the crops by hot weather is removed.

Considerable precipitation is recorded in some parts of the Calgary district and as far east or beyond Swift Current, where the danger line was very close, there has been almost general relief and grain is growing well and is making good time in the race to meet the binder. This rain is sufficient to insure that the grain will grow high enough to shade the ground and prevent the rapid evaporation of moisture which occurs during the sultry days early in the season.

Removals from Calgary

Mr. E. M. Saunders is removing from Calgary to become treasurer of the Canada Life Insurance Company. As manager of the Bank of Commerce and a recognized authority on financial matters, Mr. Saunders has enjoyed the confidence of the citizens generally. His personal inspection and report on crop conditions in the district has in itself striking illustrations of his ability to see things as they are. As chairman of the industrial expansion committee of the Industrial Bureau, Mr. Saunders reviewed the numerous industrial propositions submitted from time to time, and gave his unfaltering support to those he deemed meritorious. In these and in many other ways Mr. Saunders earned the hearty good will of a large circle of friends, and who will greatly regret his departure from Calgary.

The manager of the Bank of Montreal, Mr. W. H. Hogg, is also leaving Calgary and going to Vancouver in a more responsible position. Mr. Hogg has been more or less before the public in this city owing to his bank being the fiscal agents of the city corporation.

A branch of the Metropolitan Bank is to be established at Stratford, Ontario, under the management of Mr. J. C. Massie.