

At the present time the Dominion government has collected \$4,786,000 on the seed grain account and \$2,018,000 on the relief account. It has outstanding on the seed grain account only \$791,000 and on the relief account only \$1,058,000. This means that it has collected nearly 86 per cent. of what it advanced for seed grain and over 65 per cent. of what it advanced for relief. When regard was had for what the Dominion government had accomplished with its loose and inefficient methods of collection, there was every reason to believe that with the more efficient methods being adopted by the municipalities the provincial government's outstanding liabilities would be cleaned up.

Owing to the fact that the end of the Farm Loan Board's financial year had not yet arrived, said Mr. Dunning, it was impossible for him to submit to the assembly a complete statement of its business for the year. He could

say, however, that the situation indicated in the last report filed by the board continued during the year.

#### Estimates for 1921-22

Estimates for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1922, presented in the house on December 6, call for a total expenditure on all accounts of \$24,383,420, as compared with \$20,961,034 last session. Of this amount, \$11,670,920 is chargeable to revenue account; \$10,151,000 to capital account; \$2,100,000 to telephone revenue account, and \$461,000 to the Agricultural Aids Act. The principal capital expenditures are \$3,276,000 for construction of public buildings, \$850,000 for public improvements, \$1,550,000 for telephones, and \$4,475,000 miscellaneous. The public debt will require \$2,446,874. The amount allotted for education is \$2,632,050, and for the administration of justice \$1,450,441.

## Operations of the Dominion Bankruptcy Act

318 Trustees Have Already Been Appointed—Ontario Has 88 and Quebec Has 118—Authority Extends Throughout Provinces—General Operation Proving Satisfactory, but Some Changes Are Contemplated

(Special to *The Monetary Times*.)

Ottawa, December 16, 1920.

**U**NDER the Bankruptcy Act passed last year and amended at the last session of parliament, the secretary of state's department has now appointed 318 trustees to administer it in their respective provinces. They are mainly chartered accountants, trust companies and associations of business men formed for purposes which make them ideal trustees for bankrupt properties. In a number of cases the same company or the same association has qualified to act as trustee in most of the nine provinces of Canada, but it is entered separately as a new trustee each time, and has to put up a new bond of fifteen thousand dollars for each province in which it is appointed. In lieu of a bond they are allowed to deposit Victory bonds, specie, cash or any approved bond, but in the great majority of cases they send guarantee company bonds.

The 318 trustees already appointed are divided among the nine provinces as follows:—Nova Scotia, seven, Halifax having five; New Brunswick, four, St. John having three and Moncton one; Prince Edward Island, two; Quebec, 118, Montreal having 83, Quebec 13, Sherbrooke 14, and the other eighteen being scattered; Ontario, 88, Toronto having 48, Ottawa nine, Hamilton six, Fort William two, and the remaining 23 being scattered through the province; Manitoba 18, Winnipeg getting them all, though branch offices of eastern companies are represented, and doubtless branch offices of Winnipeg companies look after outlying districts; Saskatoon, 23, Regina having four, Moose Jaw three, Saskatoon five, and the remaining 11 being scattered; Alberta, 22, Calgary having eight, Edmonton five, and nine elsewhere, including five branches of Winnipeg companies; and British Columbia, 36, Vancouver having 27, Victoria three, and the rest of British Columbia having six, thus making a total for all Canada of 318 to date.

#### Some Changes are Contemplated

The act has now functioned sufficiently long for the business world to form its impressions of it. The action of the Dominion government in delaying the proclamation of its going into effect so that Canadians had until July 1st to study its provisions proved wise as it enabled Chambers of Commerce, mercantile associations, judges and bar associations to make various recommendations which led to a number of amendments being incorporated in the act during the last session, with the object of making it more simple and workable. Since then actual experience has led to a number

of other recommendations being made to smooth out the working of the act, and before the commencement of the next session of parliament in February next there will be a conference between the secretary of state and interested people with regard to new amendments which are desirable.

Your correspondent is informed that the changes to be made have not yet been formulated, but that none of them are serious or drastic in their character. A few "kinks" have to be smoothed out so that the public may get the full benefit of the simplicity and uniformity created by having federal courts instead of provincial courts now superseded, so that a man in Nova Scotia may invoke the aid of a bankruptcy court in British Columbia. One court and one procedure throughout Canada is the ideal, but only experience can perfect the machinery, and one able parliamentarian states his belief that it will be necessary to make amendments for the next twenty years to this act according as growing experience with it shows how it can be made more effective.

#### Provinces are Administrative Districts

No bankruptcy districts have been named other than the respective provinces in which trustees are named, and each trustee can act throughout the province. Provision was made in the act for dividing the country into smaller bankruptcy districts, but for a time it was thought advisable to keep the working of the act a little more elastic. When circumstances show the need for it, smaller bankruptcy districts will be outlined. Very little of the administrative machinery of this act remains at Ottawa beyond the naming of the trustees by the secretary of state, and the naming by the minister of justice of the judges to preside on bankruptcy matters. The officials, such as the registrars of the courts, and others, are appointed by the chief justice of the province. After the act was passed, it was expected to stand on its own legal legs with the courts and the officers whose primary duty it is to look after the carrying out of its provisions. When the trustees are all appointed it will need very little administrative machinery at Ottawa. No statistics nor records of bankruptcy proceedings are kept here except that a notice has to be printed in the "Canada Gazette" of every failure by the trustee appointed in each case.

A Year Book for 1921, in the form of an office diary, with pages 6 in. by 9 in., has been issued by the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Co. Copies are being distributed by the Canadian office, Excelsior Life Bldg., Toronto.