

BANK CLEARINGS

The following are the bank clearings for the weeks ended June 14th, 1917, and June 13th, 1918, respectively, with changes:—

	Week ended June 13, '18.	Week ended June 14, '17.	Changes.
Montreal	\$101,399,744	\$ 86,702,832	+ \$14,696,912
Toronto	72,817,222	59,138,786	+ 13,678,436
Winnipeg	43,697,731	48,964,812	— 5,267,081
Vancouver	11,042,788	8,436,610	+ 2,606,178
Ottawa	8,667,314	7,864,126	+ 803,188
Calgary	5,666,661	6,474,419	— 807,758
Hamilton	5,006,600	4,994,018	+ 12,582
Quebec	4,537,726	4,187,429	+ 350,297
Edmonton	3,081,978	2,769,894	+ 312,084
Halifax	4,787,518	3,110,977	+ 1,676,541
London	2,658,600	2,147,779	+ 510,821
Regina	3,242,373	3,361,961	— 119,588
St. John	2,342,800	1,994,618	+ 351,182
Victoria	1,981,495	1,638,134	+ 343,361
Saskatoon	1,740,657	1,862,504	— 121,847
Moose Jaw	1,374,274	1,066,364	+ 307,910
Windsor	1,022,718
Brandon	508,463	390,603	+ 117,860
Brantford	880,238	756,807	+ 123,431
Fort William	617,738	640,858	— 23,120
Lethbridge	680,834	791,985	— 102,151
Medicine Hat	581,574	404,296	+ 177,278
New Westminster	465,634	297,535	+ 168,099
Peterboro	679,547	650,049	+ 29,498
Sherbrooke	689,087	560,414	+ 128,673
Kitchener	817,868	572,704	+ 245,164

Totals \$280,998,182 \$249,777,514 + \$30,197,950

The Toronto bank clearings for the current week are \$74,780,655, compared with \$58,958,448 for the same week in 1917, and \$51,909,202 in 1916.

DECREASE IN CANADIAN TRADE

Canada's trade for the months of April and May, 1918, show a considerable decrease as compared with 1917. The figures are as follows:—

	Two months, ending May, 1917.	1918.
Imports:		
Dutiable goods	\$101,266,120	\$ 92,640,507
Free goods	93,138,068	75,792,515
Total	194,404,188	\$168,433,022
Coin and bullion	1,625,851	863,751
Grand total	\$196,030,039	\$169,296,773
Duty collected	30,958,308	28,824,379
Exports:		
The mine	10,213,082	11,199,519
The fisheries	1,753,842	2,212,888
The forest	7,468,459	10,616,777
Animals and their produce	16,891,499	12,993,504
Agricultural products	83,236,184	54,270,937
Manufactures	93,809,271	57,647,284
Miscellaneous	830,348	1,222,782
Total merchandise	\$214,202,685	\$150,163,691
Coin and bullion	77,325
Grand total exports	\$214,280,010	\$150,163,691
Total Canadian Trade:		
Merchandise entered for consumption	194,404,188	168,433,022
Merchandise, domestic, exported	214,202,685	150,163,691
Total merchandise for consumption and domestic exported	\$408,606,873	\$318,596,713
Coin and bullion entered for consumption	1,625,851	863,751
Coin and bullion exported	220,540
Merchandise, foreign, exported	5,028,924	3,415,208
Grand total	\$415,809,726	\$323,096,212

The decrease is greatest in the exports, and this is attributed to the shortage in shipping. The decline in imports is no doubt due to the restrictive regulations, and to decreased buying power.

GAS COMPANY INVESTIGATION

(Continued from page 8)

The results may be summarized thus:

Assuming that the same quantities of supplies and amount of labor will be utilized in 1918 as in 1917, the excess costs for gas coal, gas oil, fuel, labor and taxes:

In 1918, compared with 1915, will be \$1,139,849.00.

In 1918, compared with 1916, will be 1,076,766.00.

In 1918, compared with 1917, will be 595,076.00.

These figures are somewhat startling, but they are only in keeping with those exhibited by other similar important public utility corporations.

Some prices charged for gas in other Ontario municipalities are as follows:—Brockville, \$1.40; Cobourg, \$1.50; Guelph, \$1.30; Kingston, \$1.50; Kitchener, \$1.25; Napanee, \$1.50; Oshawa, \$1.40; Ottawa, \$1.25; Owen Sound, \$1.35; Peterborough, \$1.50; St. Thomas, \$1.20; Waterloo, \$1.40; Streetsville, \$1.10. In each of these cases there has been one or more increases during the past year. The average price is 27 cents per thousand cubic feet, or 25 per cent. over the prevailing prices a year ago.

An examination was also made into the rates charged in sixty-two representative cities of the United States, and only nine companies were found charging less than the ninety-cent rate of the Consumers' Gas Company.

The report closes with the statement that the investigation has proved:—

"(1) That the cost of new capital to the company has increased about 40 per cent. within the past six years.

"(2) That the cost to the company of gas coal has increased 63 per cent., gas oil 81 per cent., fuel 40 per cent., and labor 42 per cent., within the past three years.

"(3) That the operations of the Company during each of the past three years, ending September 30th, have resulted in deficits.

"(4) That practically the same conditions have been experienced by other concerns which supply gas throughout Ontario, and as a consequence there has been an increase in the price to their consumers of approximately 25 per cent., within the past year and a half.

"(5) That consumers in no municipality in Ontario are being charged as low a net rate for gas at the present time, as those in Toronto. The lowest net rate charged by any municipality is \$1.10, and the highest is \$1.50, as compared with 90 cents charged by the Consumers' Gas Company.

"In view of the foregoing facts, we are of the opinion that the company is justified in increasing the net rate from 80 cents to 90 cents per 1,000 cubic feet."

Senator Gideon D. Robertson arrived in Toronto on Tuesday the 18th inst., to endeavor to adjust the dispute between the Great North Western Telegraph Company and its local operators. Senator Robertson has been instrumental in settling a number of labor disputes including the recent strike at Winnipeg and the strike which for several weeks tied up the shipyards of the Pacific Coast.

Commercial Union Assurance Co.

LIMITED, OF LONDON, ENGLAND

Total Annual Income Exceeds \$ 51,000,000

Total Funds Exceed 151,500,000

Total Fire Losses Paid 193,774,045

Deposit with Dominion Government .. 1,245,467

Head Office Canadian Branch:

COMMERCIAL UNION BLDG. - MONTREAL

JAS. MCGREGOR, MANAGER

Toronto Office - 49 Wellington St. East

GEO. R. HARGRAFT

General Agent for Toronto and County of York.