

CONSCIENCE AND MONEY

The finance department at Ottawa last week received ten cents with a note marked "Conscience money." This department and the customs department frequently receive such penitence sums. But they rarely exceed \$50. It is good to know that in a country where investigations as to the misappropriation of funds are constantly in session, there is at least \$50 worth of conscience in existence in any given spirit. The ten cents contribution came in a letter bearing the Ottawa postmark, which fact raises an endless vista of speculation.

INVESTMENTS AND CRIME

The investor judges the state of civilization in any country chiefly by the respect accorded to life and property. Where there is such respect, investments are usually safe. Thus, capital invested in Canada is obviously not liable to assault, such as is the case, for instance, in Mexico and in some European countries. The criminal statistics of the Dominion throw interesting light on this phase of investment. During the year ended September, 1914, there were 28,007 charges and 21,438 convictions for indictable offences. There were approximately 265 convictions for every 100,000 inhabitants. This properly may be considered an excellent record, especially as much of our population is drawn from countries, some of which have peculiar notions regarding law and order.

Of the total number of persons convicted, 5,518 were sentenced to jail with the option of a fine; 6,306 to jail for less than one year; 946 to jail for one year and less than two; 967 were sent to penitentiary for two years and less than five; 241 to penitentiary for five years and over; 8 to penitentiary for life; 28 were sentenced to death; 592 were sent to reformatories, and 6,833 were allowed to go with sentences such as "bound to keep the peace," or "sentence suspended," etc. Eighty-five out of every hundred persons convicted during the year were sentenced for the first time, eight for the second time, and seven were recidivists or habitual criminals.

Analyzing the occupations of the offenders per hundred by classes, the following results are obtained: Agricultural, 9; commercial, 14; domestic, 8; industrial, 13; laborers, 55, and professional, 1. The figures given for "laborers" are out of proportion when compared with those of the other classes of occupations; it is evident that a number returned as "general laborers" should have been included with the more defined classes, such as agricultural, commercial, domestic or industrial, to which they properly belong. The commercial class seems to have an unusually high percentage.

One naturally seeks knowledge as to the age, education, habits, residence and birthplace of offenders. From the blue book it is learned that the civil condition of offenders per 100, is 72 for single, 27 for married and 1 for widowed. The figures relating to education show that 3 in every 100 were unable to read or write, 94 had an elementary education and 3 a superior education. As to ages, 16.16 per cent. were under 16 years, 16.30 per cent. from 16 to 20 years, 54.28 per cent. from 21 to 39 years and 13.26 per cent. were 40 years and over.

Thirty-five in every hundred used liquor moderately, fifteen immoderately and the remainder were either "non-drinkers" or not given. Eighty-eight in every hundred were returned as living in urban and twelve in rural dis-

tricts. The Canadian-born offenders represented 54.33 per cent.; the British-born, outside of Canada, 18.81 per cent.; those born in the United States, 6.02 per cent., and those born in other foreign countries 20.84 per cent. of the total convictions. According to the last census, the Canadian-born constituted 77.9 per cent., the British-born, outside of Canada, 11.06 per cent.; those born in the United States, 4.2 per cent., and those born in other foreign countries 6.2 per cent. of the total population.

TORONTO'S RADIAL BY-LAW

The Toronto Board of Trade council is to be commended for its action in opposing the hurried passing to the voters of Toronto the hydro-radial by-law. The board of trade council have made it clear that they do not oppose radials but that they do oppose the unbusinesslike presentation of a by-law which guarantees over \$4,000,000 to the citizens. The majority of the people are in favor of radials. Toronto has suffered for many years from a lack of proper transportation facilities for travel within a moderate radius, say, of from 20 to 100 miles. Access to the suburbs has always been difficult and frequently expensive. Radials will solve these and many other problems. At the same time, Toronto voters to-morrow must seriously consider the marking of a ballot in favor of the hydro-radial by-law which they have not read, which they probably do not understand, which their city council has not considered clause by clause, and which their city's legal department has not been asked to scrutinize and give an opinion.

The board of trade council has, among other things, drawn attention to the following points:—

(1) Toronto gives her streets and guarantees one-third of the money (over four million dollars), and has one voice in 31.

(2) That no matter what the future brings forth, by the terms of this agreement, the electors of Toronto have nothing to say.

(3) That this agreement is perpetual, regardless of the personnel of future hydro commissions.

(4) That Toronto is as valuable to the hydro as the hydro is to Toronto; we can afford to be careful and take our time.

(5) That a measure which has nothing to fear from investigation need not object to it.

(6) That a vote against this hydro-radial by-law does not mean a blow against radials, but simply that, as a good business man—a partner—we prefer that action be deferred until we can have a clear understanding of the vital details of the transaction.

A great deal of misrepresentation has been made of the action of the board of trade council. This body opposes the by-law obviously not for selfish or personal reasons but on purely business principles. No business man in his own business would rush into such an agreement with so little knowledge of it. Private capital would not be allowed to put any such unconsidered scheme before the public. Public ownership to be successful, must at least be conducted on business-like principles. The issue involved is not the question of public ownership, which the citizens have already endorsed. It is the commitment of the city to an important agreement which even the city's legal adviser has not been asked to examine.

German finances look bad enough even if one may believe the German figures.