

# Confidence and Facts Back Canadian Situation

After nine Months of War the Position in the Dominion Shows Strength Rather than Weakness—Signs of the Times

NINE months of war have shown how many of the business fears of last August were groundless. Then, Canadian business and finance almost threw up hands in despair, the despair largely of predicted future events rather than of existing facts. With a great effort, business kept its head but towards fall, commenced to worry again about what bad things might happen after the Christmas trade had passed. The prophets of pessimism having proved wrong again, persisted, and forecasted poor spring business.

After nine months of war, and bearing always in mind that the country was due for a drastic economic readjustment, Canada is rapidly assuming a healthy condition. It is beginning to realize that speculative froth is not prosperity. After a wild gallop along the bridle path of easy money, it is settling down to a staid pace in the avenues of legitimate trade, business and finance. It is realizing that the recognized principles of business are, after all, the correct ones, and that the new-fangled ideas

of finance jerked into the country by some young men who are now among the wisest and saddest, were nice but not nourishing.

Spring finds Canada with business and finances in fairly good condition. There is an increased demand for bonds and a growing volume of stock exchange transactions. Money continues to accumulate for investments. Wholesale and retail trade in staple lines is good. The agricultural outlook is excellent. War orders are stimulating industrial activity for the time being at least. Preparations are being made for the new trade movement after the war. Exports are increasing.

Little confidence, then, need be placed in the views of those predicting dull business this spring and summer. Ear has been given to these prophets for nine months and they have been found wanting. While we have war and are undergoing changes, that there are also favorable facts, confidence and good business sentiment in Canada must not be overlooked.

## NO DIFFICULTY IN FINANCING

Despite the fact that the London market is closed to Canada except for war purposes, the Dominion is having little trouble in financing its requirements. As will be gathered from the leading article in the current issue of *The Monetary Times*, Canada has sold \$83,000,000 worth of its bonds during the first four months of 1915, compared with \$152,000,000 worth sold in the first four months of 1914. In view of prevailing conditions, that is a gratifying achievement. It means that Canada has been able to find, with little trouble, a new money market to take the place of the old one during war time. After the war, we are likely to have the benefit to a greater extent, of both the British and United States markets.

Stick to business and business will stick to you.

Why spoil good business prospects with a Dominion election which nobody wants, except the politicians?

## MORE FUNDS FOR CANADA

Mr. A. M. Eedy, secretary of the Mutual Life and Citizens Insurance Company of Melbourne, Australia, is visiting Canada in the interests of his company. Mr. Eedy, who granted an interview to *The Monetary Times* this week, has until recently been travelling on this continent with Hon. James Ashton, a fellow director of the company, which is one of the oldest and most substantial in Australia. Mr. Ashton is now on his way home, but Mr. Eedy will remain for some time yet visiting the Western provinces and British Columbia and returning to Australia from San Francisco.

The Mutual Life and Citizens have for some years had investments in Canada. About three years ago, the company established a Canadian office at Montreal in charge of Mr. J. P. Moore, A.I.A., and obtained a Dominion license. Since then considerable sums of money have been invested by the company in the Dominion. The present trip of the company's directors has resulted in the investment of a further \$1,000,000. Their funds have been placed in city mortgages in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Vancouver and in farm mortgages in the West. This is being done through several Canadian trust companies. The company also has blocks of provincial government and municipal bonds including those of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa and Brandon. Mr. Eedy and Mr. Ashton are well satisfied with their Canadian investments

and have no doubt as to the stability and future prospects of this country.

Both gentlemen were given a taste of the enterprise of Canadian bond houses, two of which had heard of their proposed visit to Canada and had representatives camping at their hotel in New York. They were greatly impressed by the clean-cut and businesslike type of salesmen employed by the Canadian bond house.

A visit was paid by Mr. Eedy to Canada's exhibit at the San Francisco exhibition. He describes it as magnificent and doubts whether there is a more effective exhibit anywhere in the fair grounds.

Mr. Eedy is an official delegate to the world's insurance congress at San Francisco and was also appointed official representative of the Life Officers' Association of Australasia and of the Melbourne Insurance Institute, for the purposes of his present trip.

Even half of the faith displayed in the palmy days of 1912 would be of service now.

## GOOD TRADE RETURNS

The statement of Canadian trade shows a total for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1915, of \$1,078,173,240, as compared with \$1,112,562,107 for the previous year, a good showing in view of the dislocation of the world's trade by the war and the unfavorable economic conditions which prevailed before the war.

In the last month of the year a decided improvement was noticeable, the trade total being \$110,540,998, as against \$92,887,053 in March, 1914.

The exports of manufactures increased from \$6,239,290 to \$15,600,790; agriculture from \$6,512,546 to \$12,438,145, and animals and products from \$3,202,060 to \$5,471,249.

Now that the farmer's important place in the country is being recognized by the city man, we may hope for prosperity on a more substantial basis.

## CROP OUTLOOK IS GOOD

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy interviewed in Vancouver said that advices to him showed that in Canada business was proceeding with renewed confidence and special investigations carried out by the Canadian Pacific Railway during the