Waterways funds from their bank, they understanding that they were to be protected to the extent of $375,000, which they advanced to the railway company on the strength of the sale of the bonds. Whatever be the outcome, it would aid the maintenance and effect the betterment of Alberta's credit abroad, if the borrowed moneys were utilized, as they should be, for railroad building.

THOMAS OF CLEVELAND; AND LINDSAY.

Mr. Thomas, of Cleveland, Ohio, went as a stranger to Lindsay. With the characteristic enterprise of the bonus hunter, he impressed the civic authorities with supposed commercial importance. Interviewing the board of trade, his intention to erect a large shoe and glove factory at Lindsay was stated, a tannery being thrown in later as an additional bait. Lindsay, knowing that thirty other Ontario towns and cities would, if the opportunity occurred, welcome this American adventurer with open arms, immediately prepared to salaam to the attractive Mr. Thomas. The town council provided him with a factory site, and the gentleman opened an office, installed a stenographer, and, just to show that the Thomas tribe knew how to do things in a big way, ordered eight typewriters from a Peterborough firm. He was delighted with Lindsay, and Lindsay felt honored with the presence of Thomas, about whom, by the way, they knew nothing. The factory was to employ 300 hands. Imagine the effect of Thomas eloquence, methods and manners, upon the Lindsay citizens, gasping for a new industry at any price!

To-day the police are looking for Mr. Thomas. To a chartered bank he went, obtaining about $900. At another institution he drew $550. One of the bank managers became suspicious. This naturally piqued Mr. Thomas, of Cleveland, Ohio, who immediately paid back the $550, to do so using some of the $900 borrowed from the other bank. Then the second bank manager's suspicions were aroused. But by this time the fascinating Mr. Thomas had shaken the dust of Lindsay. He will probably wait upon another town under another name with another brand new factory proposition.

This is but a further example of the evil effects of the pernicious municipal bonus principle. It pits one town against another to secure new industries, with the result that unreasonable concessions are offered. The word has gone abroad, especially in the United States, that certain Canadian municipalities will give almost anything to secure industries which often figure chiefly on paper. Our towns and cities are being exploited in this way by men without cash, credit or reputation, while the conviction is growing that some of our civic fathers lack the first principles of business common sense. It is not good to accept at par any impressive stranger who cares to talk in an approved form of flattery.

PROPOSED BANK CLERKS' ASSOCIATION.

Certain bank clerks, who "dare not publish our names at present," are in favor of the movement now on foot to organize the Bank Clerks' Association of Canada. They think that The Monetary Times has taken "rather a narrow-minded view of the question." This, we believe, is an incorrect conclusion. We have every sympathy with the desire of the bank clerks of Canada to have an association, one through which social and educational facilities might be enjoyed, and perhaps grievances, real and otherwise, aired. The Monetary Times does not take exception to the cause, but it does feel bound to criticize the very questionable methods used in promoting it. Neither of the promoters is identified with a bank. One is an accountant. Another is a company promoter. The prospective members are told that their names as members will be kept a secret so long as desired. The anonymous letter signed "Bank Clerks" states that they dare not publish their names at present. At what stage of the organization will they dare? Judging from the letter, the association's chief object is increased salaries. The obvious conclusion is that the association proposes to become, as it thinks, numerically strong enough to approach the general managers with a demand for bigger salaries. In other words, the association will count for nothing publicly until it assumes the form of a knotted stick.

The Monetary Times has not discussed the matter with the chartered bank executives, but we believe that bank managers will fail to appreciate any employees' organization born in secrecy, promoted by outsiders, and with the apparent object of parading a grievance. We doubt even if under these conditions the bank managers would receive their deputation. The relations of employer and employee must be frank. We can foresee only difficulties and dangers if the bank clerks continue to take part in this organization. They must away with outside assistance and go direct to their employers with their ideas and requests. This is not a narrow-minded view. It is the broadest, the most logical, and the proper view. The majority of the general managers, we believe, would be favorable to the inauguration of an association, but they surely will not countenance the doubtful assistance of outsiders or recognize the ill-formed association now being promoted.

IN THE FAR EAST.

Japan experienced the commercial and financial depression which overtook Canada less than three years ago. While we have recovered completely from that setback, it seems that some considerable time must elapse before Japan again sees any great industrial activity. According to Baron Takahashi, the president of the Yokohama Specie Bank, while effects of the economic depression still remain, Japan's foreign trade, both import and export, has pursued a satisfactory course since last spring, along with the recovery of the economic conditions at home and abroad, the market prices of the sound securities rose gradually, and the amount of bills passed through the clearing house increased as the months advanced. In short, the circumstances prevailing all round give indication that the financial world is developing in a right direction. Consequent upon the abundant supply of money, the rate of interest was on the side of continual decline. The Government, availing itself of the opportunity, twice issued 4 per cent. loan bonds to the extent of yen 200,000,000 for the conversion of the 5 per cent. internal bonds; and the various companies, commercial and industrial, organized by the people either made calls on the shares or issued debentures to meet the reincreased requirements, or to replace their old loans bearing higher rate of interest; and thus, although a considerable amount of cash was withdrawn from the market, yet, on the other hand, the increase in the people's savings, coupled with the cash redemption of the national loans, kept the tide of the money market as easy as ever. This being the case, the banks have lowered the rate of interest on the deposits, but notwithstanding this they still found themselves to carry large unemployed funds, and this bank had likewise to pass the period under review with more or less money unemployed.

Turning to our foreign trade during the first half of the year, we find that the merchandise exported amounted to yen 211,200,000 and that imported to yen 239,900,000. These figures, compared with those for the corresponding period of the year preceding, show respectively an increase of yen 24,200,000 in exports and yen 25,400,000 in imports, resulting in a total increase of yen 49,600,000 for imports and exports combined.

This is doubtless the outcome of the improved financial state at home and abroad, but such a large increase of exports is to be attributed in one way to the price of