

at London call money has been quoted at  $\frac{7}{8}$  to  $1\frac{1}{8}$ . When lenders are obliged to break 1 per cent. in order to do business, it signifies very cheap money indeed. The Mexican war outlook will perhaps have some tendency to harden the quotations, but in view of the general depression in industry and trade, it is not likely that there will be any important rise for the present. Short bills are  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ; and three months' bills, 2 1-16.

Discounts in the open market at Paris are quoted  $2\frac{3}{4}$  p.c.; and at Berlin the established rate is  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . The Bank of France quotes  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ; and the Imperial Bank of Germany, 4. Local politics in the United Kingdom are still upside down over Home Rule and its side issues; but general opinion is that this problem should show some definite development towards settlement in a short time now.

#### NEW YORK DEVELOPMENTS.

Call loans in New York are quoted  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to 2 p.c.—the ruling rate being  $1\frac{1}{4}$ . Time loans are easier—sixty days,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 p.c.; ninety days, 3 p.c.; and six months, 3 to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  p.c. Another fairly large gain in surplus reserve was revealed by the Saturday return of the New York clearing house institutions. Banks and trust companies combined increased their surplus to \$21,678,000—the increase for the week being \$2,900,000. Loans increased \$28,264,000, but on the other hand cash holdings increased \$9,630,000.

#### INDUSTRIAL SITUATION.

Considering the contingencies that were involved, the New York stock market took the first resort to force in the Mexican dispute with comparative calmness. There were some declines, it is true; but it appeared to the average trader that the market had been so heavily sold on this and other points as to make it largely impervious to shocks or bad news. The recent Government crop report, especially in regard to winter wheat, doubtless went a long way towards convincing the Wall Street traders that there is still ground for hoping that conditions will improve. According to the Government crop report the condition of winter wheat has never before shown so high a percentage at this season of the year. Unless exceptional disaster is encountered between now and harvest time, the winter wheat outlook should have a material influence in brightening the industrial and railway situation on the other side. So far, too, the climatic conditions have been favorable for spring wheat seeding; and it is said, that present indications are for a satisfactory increase in the acreage on both sides of the international line.

Fire perils abound in most of the hotels in the United States and Canada. Ninety-nine per cent. are fire-traps and each of these should have tacked over the door the placard "Fire-trap Hotel."—*Safety Engineering.*

#### BANK MANAGER ON LONDON'S VIEW OF CANADA.

Mr. H. V. F. Jones, manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, in London, has been in Toronto for a few days. Discussing the present interesting situation in the London markets, Mr. Jones said:—

"The feature of the first quarter of 1914 has been the enormous amount of new capital offered for subscription, amounting to over £100,000,000, of which Canada's share was over £25,000,000. The reception accorded most of these issues has been on the whole favorable, and this is not to be wondered at when attention is directed to the character of the new issues, for they consist largely of Dominion Government, Provincial Government, municipal and railway debentures. Many cautious observers have been concerned regarding Canadian finance, and the decrease in the gross earnings of the railway companies confirms such in the opinion that further retrenchment is necessary, and must take place in Canada before normal conditions are likely to prevail."

#### A DIFFICULT OUTLOOK.

Mr. Jones said that the probable course of the markets during the next few months would be difficult to forecast owing to the many factors, several of an adverse character, which had to be taken into account. Money for investment, however, had come forward freely, but, owing to the tremendous volume of securities issued in the first quarter of the year, it was only reasonable to assume that there would be a tendency to restrain flotations. This condition, however, would depend, he said, entirely upon the investment demand, and provided Paris was able to adjust satisfactorily her position in May, the near East finance its requirements, Brazil manage to borrow enough to cover her necessities, then general conditions should continue to improve. As money promised to continue plentiful, this should help to relieve the conditions mentioned above, but, as stated, a great deal depended upon conditions outside the control of the London money market.

#### NO LACK OF CONFIDENCE.

"There is no apparent lack of confidence in Canadian securities generally, but cautious observers are watching your industrial situation here carefully," said Mr. Jones. "The adjustment in the tariff was welcomed, but the rate decision, in the face of the steady decline in the gross earnings of the railway companies created much concern, as has been evidenced by the fall in prices of stocks. It is to be hoped that the alteration in rates will not be so serious as feared; in any event it is unfortunate the announcement should be made at a time when there is every prospect of the railway companies appealing to the public for more capital."

#### NOT WITHOUT HONOR IN ITS OWN COUNTRY.

That the Prudential of Newark is not without honor in its own country is shown by the fact that last year it issued and revived in New Jersey, \$46,000,000 of insurance on nearly 200,000 policies. Each year for the past 16 years, the Prudential has led all life insurance companies in New Jersey in new business. The Prudential has in force in New Jersey over 1,468,000 policies, a number greater than one-half the population of the State and the insurance in force is over 270 million dollars.