

ten years, are convertible into cash at a moment's notice, and are not likely to decline in value. The issue of February last was exactly of the same class as this one, being for ten years and bearing five per cent. interest, and the bonds of that issue have increased slightly in value. From the fact that the bonds yield a lower rate of interest than the banks are now paying for the money they have to offer, they would seem to be an unprofitable investment. But the money in them would earn 3 per cent., and that is better than earning nothing, as much of our bank holdings is now doing. The New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and London financial houses that tendered for the loan would make more out of it as an investment than our banks would, for the former get their money at a lower rate of interest. Since outside investments have to be sought for Canadian bank deposits, at rates of interest determined by the competition of countries overrun with idle money, it follows that the rate of interest here must tend to decline. Banks cannot continue to pay higher rates for their deposits than they can get for their investments. There appears to be a feeling among them, however, that home uses for money will spring up in the early future. That feeling is indicated in their choice of securities for investment. They limit their offers and purchases closely to what would be immediately convertible should a revival in business suddenly arise and create a domestic call for money on productive and commercial account. Money in Uncle Sam's bonds can be drawn out of them whenever needed for the pecuniary requirements of this country, and there would be no danger of any material loss through the sale of them.—The "Mail."

NOTES.

The Shoe and Leather Bank, New York, has been swindled out of over \$500,000 by one of its staff. Bank defalcations are extraordinarily frequent in the States.

Another Toronto Abolitionist has resigned—Mr. Hewitt owing to a verdict of the Court that he had received a bribe from a civic tenderer, and the testimony of another that he wished to negotiate another bribe to be paid for influence in getting a corporation contract.

Mr. Edward Blake is reported as about to abandon the Irish politics and enter the Dominion Parliament. To a highly sensitive, and not physically strong man—for Mr. Blake is not as robust as he looks—the stormy sea of the Home Rule agitation must be very exhausting and trying.

The proposal to erect fire alarms has into which a person must enter to give an alarm, and where, once in, he would be a prisoner until the brigade came to release him, must be a joke. Fancy a man rushing out half clad to give an alarm, and being locked up when the temperature is below zero!

Keep a banking account, pay everything possible by cheque, never carry money to any extent on the person, are precautions which if Mr. C. H. Wood, the well-known cheese merchant, had observed he would not have been robbed, as he was, a few nights ago of \$2000 which he was

carrying home from Morrisburg to Maxville, to make payment for cheese he had purchased.

Owing to recent revolutions a Municipal Reform Association has been organized in Toronto on the same lines as our "Good Government" league. Mr. William McCabe has been appointed President of the one in Toronto, which is a most excellent step, as Mr. McCabe is a highly intelligent, clear-headed and upright citizen. It is a pity such men are not placed in charge of civic affairs, as the hoodlums would then discover their occupation gone, and municipal affairs would be conducted on business principles. We hope to see Mr. McCabe mayor of Toronto.

The N.Y. "Commercial Advertiser"—the leading trade paper in the States—recently paid Canada a splendid compliment in regard to its banking system and general financial condition. While we appreciate so kindly a reference, we must inform our contemporary that its prognostication as to Canada being destined to become annexed to the States is wildly absurd. America might as well hope to annex Europe as this Dominion. We quite admit the urgent need of the States of inoculation by Canadian influences in all departments, political, financial, judicial and social. We presume it is a consciousness of this need that makes Americans so anxious to bring Canada into the States. Miss Canada will be a sister to Brother Jonathan, but marry him—never!

Several very serious frauds have been perpetrated in the States through the issue of fraudulent securities. In one case over 3 millions is involved, a number of Savings banks being swindled by advancing on bogus bonds. A Chicago paper says: "English capitalists who have been dealing in South Dakota during the past few years have been investigating the validity of their holdings, and find in nearly every instance that they have been swindled through J. L. M. Pierce, an Englishman, who has been living in London during the past three years. It is alleged that Pierce has realized fully \$1,000,000 in five years through fraudulent and forged papers, school bonds, tax deeds, certificates, mythical township bonds, etc." Private investors should never touch such securities except when negotiated through some well known, experienced and reputable financial agent.

The Ottawa "Semi Weekly" has some comments on the farmers and the salt industry, from which it seems that the Grange supporters being dissatisfied with the price of salt, organized a company to manufacture it. The company succeeded in bringing down the price, but the farmers finding that others sold salt at the lowered figure withdrew their patronage from their own child, and in consequence the price went up again to the old figure. Then the Patrons of Industry stepped in and formed a combine of buyers, the re-

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Fire Insurance,

Montreal.

sult of which was a reduction again. This is a case of "fighting the devil with fire." Those who form a combine of this class may be successful, but they are no longer in a position to object to combines on principle. Having so stultified themselves, they have put themselves out of court as objectors to combines, and rendered the legislation they have clamored for to restrain combines impossible.

Mr. Plummer, of the Bank of Commerce, has given full explanations in regard to his son's leaving the Military College, Kingston. The seniors were in the habit of flogging the juniors once a week with canes! Young Plummer resisted and left the college. There was an investigation which resulted in the ringleader being rusticated for 3 months, and all the seniors being confined to barracks for a month. The discipline of the college was wretched, bullying being a recognized system; the juniors were compelled to do menial offices for seniors, and altogether the place may have been adapted to turn out "officers," but not "gentlemen." The many stand taken by young Plummer was highly commendable, and his father's firmness has been of the greatest service to the college. The pupils are called "cadets." The enquiry showed that many of them could be better described by that word with "et" left out.

Mr. R. R. Grindley, who for more than two years had expressed a wish to be relieved of his duties, has resigned his position as General Manager of the Bank of N. America. Mr. H. Stikeman has been appointed General Manager to succeed Mr. Grindley, the change to take place on the 1st January next. A resolution of the directors says: "The court desire to express the great appreciation of the invaluable services which Mr. Grindley has rendered to the bank, not only by long and faithful services to the bank's interests, but by those personal qualities which have enabled him so fully to maintain the dignity of his position, and to earn the highest esteem of the court of directors, the shareholders and the public."

Mr. Grindley, to whom this high compliment is paid, came to this country from England in the service of the bank in the year 1854. After spending some ten years in St. John, N.B., as manager of that branch he came to Montreal, where he has occupied the high position of General Manager for the last 18 years.