

believed to be committed to maintaining it at a high level made no move. Finally, when the decline had gone a certain distance buying orders, assumed to be theirs, appeared in the market, and the fall was arrested.

Concurrently with the appearance of this support sterling exchange broke violently. It was instantly assumed that the parties supporting Steel were finding the funds for doing so through drawing on London and thus negotiating fresh American loans at that centre. Foreign exchange rates have since risen sharply from the gold import point as a result of money's hardening abroad. It seems now likely, in view of the New York's heavy indebtedness and the country's recent *contra* trade balance, that gold will be exported rather than imported.

Call Rates Advance in Canada.

Call money in Montreal and Toronto has advanced from 4 to 4½ per cent. as the ruling rate for new loans—some old loans also being charged the higher rate. Nevertheless, it seems certain that the first stage of the crop-moving operation—that comprising the period between the harvest and the close of lake and river navigation on December 1—will be completed without having produced any active strain on banking funds. At this time of year the bank note circulation approaches its maximum. Nearly always the 31st October shows the highest total of notes outstanding on the statement dates for returns to Government. But quite commonly the circulation will go on expanding for a week, ten days, or two weeks after the 31st October; and the actual highest point for the circulation may be reached on the 10th or 15th of November, the total falling off before the end of the month to a point below the level of 31st October. Of course, while the maximum amount of circulation is outstanding the grain loans also are at a high level; and by the time the notes come back in large numbers for redemption there has been ample opportunity for the forwarding and exporting to Europe of a large quantity of grain, the bills of exchange drawn against which serve to provide funds to retire the grain companies' loans, and at the same time enable the banks easily to retire their incoming notes.

The Later Stages of Crop Financing.

But the second stage of the crop financing movement then begins. Some part of the grain makes its way east via the expensive all-rail route; but a large part remains in the west till the ensuing spring. The giant elevators at the terminal points slowly fill their capacity; and the hundreds of smaller elevators at interior points or many of them, also fill up. Against all this stored grain many millions of bank loans are asked for and obtained. The loans are a dead load till spring. The note circulation gives no help in carrying them in this case—for the note circulation goes to its lowest point in January, and does not rise any distance above it till August or September—except for a temporary rise in the late winter when the lumber camps are being paid off.

If during that second stage there is a continuation of very active dealings in the stock markets and a continuation of the merger and other deals both here and in other countries, the chances for somewhat dearer money will be increased.

SEPTEMBER FIRES.

Canada's Property Losses Run about One-Tenth those of United States.

The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of September, as compiled by the New York Journal of Commerce presents a total of \$15,043,000. The following table gives the fire loss figures for the first nine months in 1909 in comparison with the same months of 1907 and 1908, and shows the losses for the balance of those two years:

	1907	1908	1909
January.....	\$24,064,000	\$29,582,000	\$22,735,000
February.....	19,876,600	18,489,700	16,131,000
March.....	20,559,700	16,723,300	13,795,400
April.....	21,925,900	26,009,000	19,345,300
May.....	16,286,300	15,181,150	17,360,400
June.....	14,765,000	19,512,000	14,435,950
July.....	18,240,150	15,324,750	15,830,900
August.....	20,248,000	23,123,000	16,423,000
September.....	11,440,400	21,431,400	15,043,000
Total 9 mos.	\$167,406,050	\$185,375,300	\$151,099,950
October.....	13,350,250	22,722,850	
November.....	19,122,200	15,834,350	
December.....	15,783,750	14,629,750	
Total for yr's	\$215,662,250	\$238,562,250	

During the month of September there were no less than 238 fires which caused a loss of \$10,000 or over in each instance.

The experience for the past nine months was not evenly divided among the different fire insurance institutions, says the Journal of Commerce. While some have fared very well, others show a loss on their underwriting operations, particularly in the Southern States, which for a number of companies have proved a sinkhole for money of late.

Canada's property losses from fire for the first nine months of the year have been well on to \$14,500,000, the September losses running about \$1,600,000—or slightly over the year's monthly average. The Chew lumber-yard fires at Midland, the burning of the Toronto Parliament Buildings and the gutting of the Witness Building, Montreal, were three of the month's more serious happenings.

THE INSURANCE BILL'S consideration by the Senate will be an important feature of the coming session of Parliament, the opening of which is scheduled for Thursday, November 11. Life insurance matters have been pretty well threshed out, but fire insurance discussion promises to be of a warmth befitting the subject matter.

THE HUDSON BAY INSURANCE COMPANY, Cash Mutual and Stock (a company incorporated by Legislature of Saskatchewan) will apply for Dominion incorporation with head office at the City of Vancouver, British Columbia. Messrs. Smith & Johnston, Ottawa, are the solicitors for the applicant.

MR. R. C. CLARKSON, Canadian liquidator of the Mutual Reserve of New York, states that he has almost completed his work. There were some 3,000 Canadian policyholders with claims for \$336,000. On these a dividend of 80 p.c. has been paid, and a further dividend of not less than 10 p.c. is expected.