

MORATORIA AND DEFERRED PAYMENTS

Some Effects of Manitoba's Legislation Noted—Refusals to Pay Debts

There was no particular reason why the Manitoba government should have passed moratorium. I think the majority of the citizens of Manitoba were in a position, and are in a position, to meet their obligations, is how a Western loan company manager sums up the recent financial legislation of that province when writing to *The Monetary Times*. I have no doubt but that a certain percentage of the citizens of Manitoba were unable to meet their obligations, but this was not to be wondered at, because no matter how good times are you will always find a certain number of people who become involved and are unable to meet their obligations.

The principal reason given by the Manitoba government for passing the moratorium was that it would have a tendency to protect the working man; in other words, to save the working man's home. In my opinion the working men throughout the province of Manitoba are in fairly good shape financially, and were in a position to take care of payments falling due on account of mortgages or agreements on their homes. Financial institutions and private individuals holding mortgages on a working man's home would have been, and are, prepared to extend the greatest consideration and leniency to deserving parties who might be out of employment during the winter months. This has been the policy adopted by the lending companies, as well as the private individuals for years.

An Aid to the Speculator.

The moratorium was passed for the purpose of protecting the speculator more than the working man. The working men in the province of Manitoba are not nearly so hard up as the speculator or the men who for the past few years have been considered very well off, but owing to over-speculation have become pretty well tied up.

The moratorium has worked a great hardship on investors, possibly outside investors in particular, that is, British investors who invested money on mortgages in this country and were counting on receiving a certain amount of principal on account of these mortgages to meet other obligations. The province would have been just as well off had the moratorium not been declared.

Province not Benefited.

The people of Manitoba as a rule are prepared to meet their obligations, and the parties holding mortgages or agreements against those who are not in a position to meet their obligations are now, and always have been, willing to exercise the greatest leniency to such parties, providing they are deserving.

Since the moratorium was declared many persons owing large amounts of principal on agreements and mortgages have refused to pay. Had the moratorium not been declared I believe many of the persons who have not met their payments on account of principal would have done so, and it would have had this effect: Jones owes Smith \$5,000, Jones pays Smith \$5,000. This enables Smith to pay his debt of \$5,000 to Brown, and Brown pays someone else, and so on. In other words, the fact of Jones paying his obligation would have permitted possibly fifteen others to wipe out their obligations. Therefore, had the moratorium not been declared many of the outstanding obligations would have been liquidated and no person would have been seriously hurt.

There is no doubt that certain individuals have taken advantage of the moratorium and have refused to take care of their honest obligations. Had the moratorium not been declared, such individuals would have put forth a special effort, with the result that they would have been able to take care of their honest obligations.

The Curtiss Aeroplanes and Motors, Limited, has been incorporated, with headquarters in Toronto. It has authority to make all kinds of aeroplanes, hydro-aeroplanes, seaplanes, flying boats, airships, dirigible and other balloons and air craft generally. It also is empowered to establish schools for instruction of pilots and mechanics. The capital is \$50,000.

COLLATERAL READING FOR INSURANCE MEN

Knowledge of All Branches of the Business is Necessary—Pointers on Best Books

Mapping out a course of collateral reading for the insurance man, Mr. M. P. Langstaff, A.I.A., F.A.S., of the Dominion Life Insurance Company, told the Toronto Insurance Institute that while a course of collateral reading for the insurance man may deal largely with the theory of the subject, yet it should not be despised on that account, but rather recognized by him as an absolute essential to the best and fullest performance of his practical duties.

"It is a matter of frequent comment that in our banks, commercial houses, and insurance companies, three-fourths of the clerks never open a text-book for suggestions as to their office duties from one end of the year to the other.

Benefits of Study.

"Quite often, indeed, the idea never occurs to them. But the habit of collateral reading is growing, and I predict it will continue to grow as the non-readers come to realize the more rapid progress of those who use their spare time in developing their minds on every phase of their business duties."

Mr. Langstaff, under the headings, accountancy, actuarial, medical, legal, blue books, banking, financial and investment (including *The Monetary Times*), indicated a comprehensive survey of literature designed to broaden the insurance man's knowledge of his business and its position in the chain of human activities.

"For the truest and fullest education we must get outside the comparatively narrow compass of technical reading and interest ourselves in the broader field of general literature.

"The habit of wider reading has many advantages. It helps a man to avoid the narrowing influences which always beset the specialist in any branch of human endeavor.

Only a Specialist.

"Too frequently we find that the most accomplished man of mere professional skill is good for nothing outside of his profession. In striving after proficiency in one department he has dwarfed his talents in other directions. 'He is a leather-dealer, and can talk only about leather; a specialist, and smells mustily of his specialty as an inveterate smoker does of tobacco.' These are very real dangers, and one way of avoiding them is by refusing to become narrow in one's reading. But aside from all that—aside from the broadening influences and the wider information and the intellectual enjoyment which the appreciative reader invariably derives, he may experience a very practical benefit from many forms of reading, which, at first thought, appear to have not even a remote connection with his daily calling."

TRAVELLERS LIFE OF CANADA

Another year's good business was attained by the Travellers Life Insurance Company of Canada during 1914. It has now net insurance in force amounting to nearly \$3,000,000. The company's income was \$88,609, and disbursements \$57,912. Policies issued and revived represent \$1,394,505. The company's return on investments is shown to be 6.31 per cent. The mortality record was only 15 per cent. of expected losses. In the annual statement assets are given as \$237,599; liabilities, \$132,489; surplus to policyholders, \$105,110; subscribed and uncalled capital, \$492,860.

At the annual meeting the following officers and directors were elected: president, Hon. Geo. P. Graham, M.P.; vice-presidents, Jas. W. Pyke, Lorne C. Webster; secretary and actuary, A. P. Earle, A.I.A., A.A.S.; chief medical adviser, A. E. Garrow, M.D. Directors—Hon. Geo. P. Graham, M.P., Hon. N. Curry, Hon. A. K. MacLean, M.P.; Messrs. Jas. W. Pyke, Lorne C. Webster, J. W. McConnell, William Lyall, J. N. Greenshields, K.C., H. W. Richardson, Paul J. Myler, C. G. Pennock, J. F. Cairns, D. O. L'Esperance, M.P., and C. R. Whitehead.

While the company has been in business only a few years, the financial statement, as presented, looks well.