Turkey, New Zealand, Denmark and Finland are all expected to be making issues before the end of the half year, the two latter taking place respectively in France and Germany. Since Mr. Fielding arrived, there has been a recrudescence of the talk about a large Dominion loan. There appears to be an impression abroad that this will be "new" borrowing; apparently the fact that the bill passed at Ottawa in May authorized the borrowing of a sum not exceeding $50,000,000 largely "to redeem maturing loans" has been overlooked.

Bullish Sentiment in Grand Trunks.

The announcement that the new Grand Trunk Pacific line from Edmonton to Fort William will be opened on August 1, coupled with the news of the first Grand Trunk limited pulling out of Winnipeg to the West, has given the Grand Trunk market a distinct fillip. Berlin has again been buying the junior securities somewhat freely, and these now show a distinct appreciation as compared with the prices ruling at the end of May settlement. Bullish feeling in the markets regarding Grand Trunks is making distinct headway, thanks to the fact that about £100,000 of the six months dividend on the first and second preference had been secured by the end of April, leaving only £48,500 to be provided by the earnings of May and June. Hopes regarding the figures of the May statement run high, while it is suggested that the situation is actually better than the monthly statements show. The ground for this belief is found in the large alterations which have been made in the 1908 figures, changed for the purpose of comparison with current figures, owing to the revised classification adopted by the Canadian Government.

There has been a severe slump in the securities of the Latin-American power group, partly owing to the announcement that the damage done to the dam at Necoxa of the Mexican Light & Power Company amounts to £40,000 and partly to the fact that carry-over facilities to a number of bulls have suddenly been cut off owing to the death of a well-known millionaire, who was in the habit of lending large sums to the Stock Exchange for this purpose. Operators in Brussels, also, who have lately been acquiring large "put and call" options are now exercising the "put" so that shares are being thrown on the market.

British Capital Abroad.

One of the most important contributions to the discussion on the subject of British Investments abroad, which has lately become so widespread as to have descended from the fields of finance and statistics into the domain of politics, is that of Mr. George Paish, who has just read a paper on the subject before the Royal Statistical Society. Mr. Paish is joint editor of the well-known Statist and his position both as a statistician and as a financial journalist give both value and authority to the estimates which he gave of the income which we derive annually from all our investments abroad, and the total of those investments.

The Commissioners of Inland Revenue in their annual report place the amount of our income from abroad, so far as they are able to trace it at just under 80 millions. They are careful to point out that this is by no means the total received, as it includes only that income derived from government stocks, municipal securities and railways. Mr. Paish himself places the income derived from these sources at £82,777,000; and the Commissioners' report shows that it has been steadily rising for many years past. From 1886-87 indeed, when it was 44½ millions there are only two years when this earmarked income from abroad does not show a perceptible increase on that of the previous year.

Having analyzed the accounts of more than 2,000 miscellaneous British companies operating abroad, Mr. Paish finds that the income we derive from these is approximately £58,000,000, so that our total income from abroad approximates 140 millions. And this great sum does not include the money deposited in Indian, colonial and foreign banks by persons residing in this country nor the large amount of capital placed abroad privately.

Mr. Paish estimates that to obtain this income of 140 millions, we have invested abroad a sum of about £2,700,000,000, this capital yielding us an all-round return of 5.2 p.c. Of this capital of £2,700,000,000 nearly £1,700,000,000 has been expended upon railway constructions, and it has been supplied in about equal proportions to British dominions beyond the seas and to foreign countries. About 290 millions, Mr. Paish estimates, have been subscribed for enterprises abroad within the last two years. As regards the countries in which we are investing most largely at the present time Mr. Paish estimates that in the period between July 1, 1908, and June 15, 1909, we placed in Canada £27,425,401; in Argentina, £24,803,505; in the United States, South Africa and India, 13½ millions each; in Mexico nearly 13 millions; in Australasia, over 12 millions and in Brazil, more than 11 millions.

Mr. Paish has no sympathy with those who decry this investment of our capital abroad as tending to impoverish the country. "In my opinion," he says "the growth of our trade and prosperity is largely the result of our investment of capital in our countries." The large sums of capital which Great Britain is now supplying to other lands will ensure greatly increased incomes to her own people of all ranks and classes, will widen the Indian, colonial and foreign markets for the "goods she manufactures and will provide her dense and constantly growing populations with plentiful supplies of foodstuffs and of raw materials." Altogether, Mr. Paish's paper was a most interesting and informing one, which will repay careful study. His estimate of our capital invested abroad, by the way, is very close to that made by a careful writer in the Quarterly Review about two years ago.

Insurance Companies and the Budget.

In the multitude of protests against Mr. Lloyd-George's Finance Bill which are being arranged by interested parties, the insurance companies are playing a part. Through the Life Offices' Association, they will represent to the chancellor how the Bill will adversely affect the ground rents and mortgages held by the companies. Mortgages, ground rents and land and house property are a very favourite form of investment with British offices, their interests in these directions approximating about 140 millions. METRO.

London, 19th June, 1909.