

The Week.

Dun's Review.

Trade continues quiet, but conditions are essentially sound. Better weather throughout the crop area has largely relieved the apprehension about the staple crops, and lower temperatures in the large cities have helped general business, especially retail lines. A favorable sign is a somewhat better inquiry for high grade bonds, the investing public gradually becoming more favorably disposed toward long term securities. The demand is still highly discriminating. Railroad earnings for the first week of July show a small increase, while bank clearings this week are 4.6 per cent. above the total reported in the corresponding week last year. Further improvement in the steel industry is reflected by the release this week of some important orders for various products, including rails. A moderate export demand has been reported. There is still good buying in finished lines, and plants, especially at the West, are quite well employed. Resumption of shoe factories is creating a better demand for leather, and New England jobbers continue fairly busy. The dry goods market is naturally affected by the sharp break in the price of cotton, and there is a consistent effort made in some quarters to stimulate business through price revisions. The disposition is still to buy cautiously until the general trade outlook is better defined. The violent decline in the price of cotton carried the new crop options down over four dollars a bale. The markets here and at the South have been much excited by these fluctuations, with quite a stampede of speculators from the bull to the bear side. Crop advices are very favorable, and the indications are for record-breaking productions. The abundant rainfall in the corn belt and larger receipts, with better conditions in the spring wheat territory, give a heavy tendency to the markets for those staples. The foreign trade statement for the fiscal year just closed shows total exports of \$2,048,691,392, the largest ever reported. The excess of exports over imports was \$520,706,304, as against \$188,037,230 the preceding year; last year's export excess has been exceeded on only five occasions in the country's history.

The progress in iron and steel augurs well for the future. While improvement is not pronounced, consumers are more disposed to cover requirements, and mill operations are steadily broadening. Evidence of the increasing demand is furnished by the placing of orders for about 100,000 tons of steel products for early shipment with a Western subsidiary of the leading interest, the greater portion of these bookings comprising rails and track fastenings. The volume of structural shapes, plates and bars included in the contracts was also considerable. In finished lines conditions make a more favorable showing at Chicago than in the Pittsburgh district, where the plants are estimated to be working at between 60 and 65 per cent. of full capacity, with activity confined mainly to the sheet division. The number of inquiries would indicate approaching improvement. There is a better demand for sheets, tin plates and steel bars. Structural work is being pushed with greater vigor at the West. Further expansion appears in the demand for pig iron in some sections. The largest deal pending this week was for 60,000 tons of basic.

Selling agents in the cotton goods market have cut prices on goods to stimulate the movement in all accumulations of odd lots. A drastic revision in bleached cotton, following the removal of restrictions on staple prints, adds to the uncertainty. The volume of curtailment is increasing. Export trade is still favorable and stocks are relatively light. Dress goods and men's wear merchants are about opening their new spring lines and prices generally show considerable reduction, but buyers are not ready to proceed at the new quotations and most of them are ordering sample pieces only or very trifling filling-in supplies. This lack of anticipation is greatly hampering the mills and curtailment continues large, but sentiment is still healthy because of the certainty that stocks will shortly need replenishment. Manufacturers operate more freely in the Boston wool market, purchases aggregating at least 5,000,000 pounds, at prices current for some time. Foreign advices are strong.

Conservatism is displayed by wholesalers in the footwear markets, although the movement is expected to increase as buyers are quite numerous in the Boston market. There is a fairly steady volume of business

with local jobbers. Leather is a little more active. Prices are very strong and the lack of large sales is partly due to the disinclination of tanners to sell much ahead of current receipts. Most kinds of sole are in limited supply. Recent advances are strongly adhered to; hemlock sole overweights in the better grade are especially scarce. Packer hides show some signs of weakness, but no quotable declines of account are recorded, except in July heavy native cows, which sold at 15½¢, a decline of ¼¢. Country hides are easy but unchanged, while the former markets continue firm. One variety of Latin-American dry hides sold at an advance of ¼¢.

Continued improvement in the cotton crop prospects caused the decline in prices, liquidation in the nearby options being particularly drastic. The August delivery fell below 12¾¢ under especially heavy pressure. Wheat moved irregularly, although the tendency was generally downward in response to continued heavy receipts. Some support was furnished by reports of black rust in the Northwest and evidence of a revival in the export demand, but these influences were offset by other news of a depressing character. Arrivals of 9,237,027 bushels at primary points largely exceeded the 4,087,094 received last year, while shipments from all ports of the United States, flour included, were 1,050,304 bushels against 394,102 in 1910. Pressure against corn was prompted by copious rains over a wide area of the belt and prices fell with considerable violence. The movement amounted to 2,569,202 bushels as compared with 2,643,666 a year ago, and Atlantic coast exports were 97,137 bushels against 51,361 in 1910.

Liabilities of commercial failures reported for July to date amount to \$5,345,010, of which \$1,968,659 were in manufacturing, \$3,029,058 in trading and \$347,293 in other commercial lines. Failures this week numbered 205 in the United States against 249 last year, and 25 in Canada compared with 25 a year ago.

British Banking Profits.

London financial journals of recent date—the *Statist* of May 13 and the *Economist* of May 20—contain comprehensive statistical and other information regarding the banks of Great Britain.

Commenting on the greater profits compared with last year, the *Economist* says:—

"Out of nearly £800,000 more in net profits shareholders only received a paltry £11,200, the whole of the increase and £220,000 beside being appropriated in writing down the investments. * * * The results of 1910 are, in fact, very similar to those of 1907, in both years a substantial increase in profits having been more than eaten up by the depreciation of securities."

The *Statist's* article emphasizes the process of bank amalgamation, which has been going on rapidly of recent years. This has resulted in a concentration of British banking into the hands of a few institutions. It is pointed out that the number of branch offices in the United Kingdom is now upwards of 8,000—an increase of about sixty per cent. in thirty years. One of the great joint-stock banks has nearly 700 offices, another over 600, a third nearly 500, a fourth about 450, a fifth 350 and a sixth over 300. The ten greatest banks hold nearly sixty per cent. of the total banking deposits of the country. After allowing for duplication of deposits, the *Statist* estimates the net deposits of all purely British banks at about £950,000,000, as against about £400,000,000 thirty years ago.

German Thrift Shown by Income Tax.

(Consular Report.)

Prof. Ballod, a German expert, taking the organization of the Prussian income tax as the basis of his figures, shows that it is possible to form a fairly accurate idea of the amount and of the progress of private wealth in Prussia. In 1895 the total private fortunes in Prussia on which the income tax was levied amounted to \$15,197,966,000, which had risen in 1908 to \$21,813,414,000, an increase of 43 per cent. in 14 years. By extending this calculation in proportion to the population to the whole German Empire, and by comparing it with the figures of the three leading German assurance companies, it appears that the total net annual amount put aside by Germany is no less than \$1,250,000,000 in round figures.

Blending Business and Scholarship.

The World's Work.

A man of scholarly habits and pursuit, turned philosopher for a moment, remarked in this office that he sometimes envied men-of-affairs—their financial success—till he spent some time with them. "Then," said he, "I go back to my work and poverty with contentment. Their talk is almost wholly of their business or of their recreations—the condition of trade, or golf, or motoring. Their very stories are stories of prices and bargains. These are the people who keep alive the several varieties of the old Jew joke, because it usually turns on some sharp practice in trade. Or they talk of 'efficiency'—of making and selling and buying more things within a certain price and within a certain time. Are there no luminous spaces in their lives? What do they think of when they go to bed? Do they never read any of the old books? Do they never see the sky and the stars, or reflect on ideals, or find exercise in wit, or talk of some men that are dead, or know something of human history, or ever understand that the part of life that is spent simply with the using is like water running over the dam—don't they ever woo wisdom? ever see 'the flowing, flowing, flowing of the world' and of all that it contains? ever feel the sweep of a great thought?"

"Yet these same men of trade have an air of condescension toward a man of another sort, an arrogance, as if to say, 'You never sold anything in your life,' or 'You couldn't make an extra thousand dollars to save your soul.' I go back to my routine and philosophy with humble contentment."

The good fortune of our time and country is that there is an ever increasing number of men who combine, in some degree, the qualities of both the man of affairs and of the philosopher; and the combination makes the only really interesting man for all moods and for the uses of a long or intimate acquaintance. A business transaction may link itself in thought with the evolution of the universe; or the "flowing of the world" may be observed in the sale of the humblest commodity of trade. We have cultivated merchants and business-like scholars.

Opinions.

(Life.)

A man's opinion consists in his choosing one particular alternative among a number of alternatives. If a number of others have chosen the same alternative that he has, then he belongs to a party. But if he is the only one who has chosen that particular alternative, then he is a crank. We begin without opinions and end without them. In between we select those which are handed out to us. In the beginning we take the first ones offered, but after getting bad ones we learn caution and finally come to take only those which have the right trademark. One or two men in every generation make their own opinions.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS DURING THE MONTH OF MAY, 1911.—Industrial accidents occurring to 173 individual work people in Canada during the month of May, 1911, were reported to the Department of Labor. Of these fifty-two were fatal and 121 resulted in serious injuries.

Imperial Bank of Canada

DIVIDEND No. 84.

Notice is hereby given that a dividend at the rate of Twelve per cent. (12 p.c.) per annum upon the Paid-up Capital Stock of this Institution has been declared for the three months ending 31st July, 1911, and that the same will be payable at the Head Office and Branches on and after Tuesday, the 1st day of August next.

The Transfer Books will be closed from the 20th to the 31st July, 1911, both days inclusive.

By order of the Board.

D. R. WILKIE, General Manager

Toronto, 28th June, 1911.