

A LONDON OPINION OF CANADA'S POSITION.

Canada is, and is likely to remain for many years to come, a borrowing country, just as any rapidly expanding business is a borrowing business. A shortage in the supply of new capital, such as appears to exist at present throughout the world, is therefore naturally felt more acutely in Canada than in countries which are not expanding, or in which there is more accumulated wealth. If it continued for any great length of time it would undoubtedly mean that the expansion of the country would be checked. There is no reason, however, to be apprehensive for the security of capital invested in Canada—speaking, of course, in general terms, and not with reference to the wisdom or otherwise of any particular investment—even if the abnormal expansion of late years should die away, and the country be left to the ordinary process of gradual growth. Even in such conditions, unlikely as they are, Canada would be able to make good and to support the burden of the debt which she has already incurred. Up to the present the check which has been put on Canadian borrowing by the general financial situation has probably done more good than harm. It may have embarrassed and held up for a time a certain number of promising undertakings, and it may have deferred the profit-earning stage in others already entered on. But it has caused stock to be taken of the situation; it has given a set-back to the tendency to unconsidered expenditure which was showing itself; and it will help to impose a needed economy in both personal and business expenditure.—*London Times*.

A humorous interlude at the recent Insurance Commissioners' Convention was provoked by a letter from a Milwaukee man who asked for an investigation of the salaries paid in the home offices of the life insurance companies. The letter said, "Men capable of honestly earning not more than \$2.50 per year are being paid \$10,000 to \$50,000 as officers of life companies." The letter was ordered filed. It is safe to say there will be no such investigation.

COMPANY TO INSURE UNDER-AVERAGE LIVES.

Announcement was made in *The Chronicle* some months ago, of the formation of a new Canadian life insurance company to insure under-average lives. This is the Empire Life Assurance Company which has now secured its charter. The head office of the Company is in Toronto, and the officers are as follows: President, Hon. Thos. Crawford, M.P.P., Toronto, ex-Speaker in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario; managing director, George Boyd Wickes, Toronto; actuary and secretary, R. W. Barton, A.I.A., Toronto; chief medical referee, T. F. McMahon, M.D., Toronto. The Company will shortly sell its stock.

In a pamphlet dealing with the insurance of under-average lives, Mr. Wickes and Mr. Barton point out that for nearly a century, a well-known English company has specialised in these risks in Great Britain and that for many years a leading New York company successfully wrote this class of business. There are no published returns, they say, as to the total amount of business declined in the Dominion. After communicating, however, with all companies writing life assurance in Canada—Canadian, British and United States—the officers of the Empire Life Assurance Company, through the courtesy of these companies, are in a position to state that during the past three years at least \$30,000,000 of business has been declined in the Dominion. The amount of these declinatures is also an increasing one—increasing with the total volume of business written by the companies.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has opened a new branch at Chandler, Gaspé County, Que. The Bank of British North America's Forward, Sask. branch has been closed.

The Bank of Montreal, the Canadian Bank of Commerce and the Royal Trust Company are the trustees for the new Central Gold Reserve provided for in the new Bank Act. The Royal Trust Company is custodian.

ABSTRACT OF THE BANK STATEMENT FOR JULY, 1913(Compiled by *The Chronicle*).

	July 31, 1913.	June 30, 1913.	July 31, 1912.	Month's change.	Year's change.
LIABILITIES.					
Circulation	\$ 99,143,411	\$105,697,629	\$ 95,827,534	—\$ 6,554,218	+\$ 3,315,877
Demand deposits	356,585,196	362,769,928	372,012,494	— 6,184,732	— 15,427,298
Notice deposits	621,347,388	622,928,969	640,592,345	— 1,581,581	— 19,244,957
Foreign deposits	86,600,194	104,289,782	77,838,807	— 17,689,588	+ 8,761,387
Total liabilities	\$1,275,297,267	\$1,280,170,221	\$1,264,541,837	— \$4,872,954	+\$10,755,430
ASSETS.					
Specie	\$ 42,172,949	\$ 37,944,392	\$ 38,001,215	+ \$4,228,557	+\$ 4,171,734
Dominion Notes	91,011,691	94,544,199	94,336,835	+ 3,532,508	+ 3,325,144
Securities held	107,240,421	100,856,212	96,406,969	+ 6,384,209	+ 10,833,452
Canadian call loans	67,991,255	68,642,377	70,407,734	— 651,122	+ 2,416,479
Foreign call loans	89,266,235	89,363,520	117,961,437	— 97,285	— 28,695,202
Canadian current loans	901,550,453*	899,260,009*	852,256,651*	+ 2,290,444	+ 49,293,802
Foreign current loans	42,960,513	36,894,681	35,741,998	+ 6,065,832	+ 7,218,515
Loans to municipalities, etc.	43,121,384				
Total assets	\$1,519,517,013	\$1,521,354,957	\$1,496,623,543	— \$1,837,944	+\$22,893,470

* Inclusive of loans to municipalities, etc.