SIR GEORGE PAISH ON CANADA'S PROSPECTS.

TRANSITION PERIOD SHOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO SURMOUNT—NECESSITY OF CHEAP MONEY FOR FARMER—PRODUCTION SHOULD QUICKLY EXPAND.

In his final article on Canada in the London *Statist* Sir George Paish points out that when the Canadian trans-continental systems have been completed by 1915, in the short period of twelve years the railway mileage of Canada will have been increased from under 19,000 miles to nearly 36,000 miles—a stupendous work. The expenditure on new lines, improvements to old ones, equipment, etc., he estimates at £200,000,000. "In proportion to population no country has ever built railways as rapidly as Canada has done in recent years," he comments, and continues:

EFFECT OF RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

"The effect of this railway construction on the prosperity of Canada has already been amazing The new railways have brought into existence a great many new towns, have caused the old cities to grow in size, have wonderfully stimulated the growth of population, and generally have completely changed not merely the face of Canada, but the character of the Canadian people as well. On my first visit to Canada in 1899 the difference between the Canadian and the American people was strikingly evident. In the country south of the line there was life, movement, and progress, whereas in the northern country lethargy, inertia and narrowness of outlook were conspicuous. All this has been altered. The immense amount of capital poured into Canada in recent years, the great influx of immigrants, and the rapidity with which population has grown, have transformed Canada, and in the last ten years the country has made much greater relative progress, not only in comparison with the United States, but in comparison with any other country."

THE TRANSITION PERIOD.

After pointing out that in publicly issued securities the British investor has now a stake of £500,000,000 in Canada, that the amount of American capital invested in the country is approximately £100,000,000 and that including money privately placed the total amount of foreign money invested here is nearly £700,000,000, carrying with it an interest burden of over £50,000,000, Sir George deals with the outlook during the period of transition from construction to production. He says, in part:

"It is evident that the transition from a period of construction to a period of production cannot take place without a certain amount of disturbance both of labor and of capital. In the construction stage a very large percentage of the persons entering the country have settled in the towns. In the productive stage the number of persons who can obtain work and a livelihood in the towns will for a time diminish, while practically everyone will be able to obtain work, and a livelihood in developing the natural riches of the country.

"I have no doubt, that large numbers who may find their occupation fail them when the construction period for the time being comes to an end, will have the means of acquiring land or mining claims, or will engage as capitalists, in one way or another, in the work of developing the natural resources of the country, while a great many others will find employment as laborers on the land or in the mines and forests. Thus, after a comparatively short period of transition, in which the displacement of labor will take place, the expansion in the productive industries of the country will be so rapid that all the displaced labor will find employment.

CAPITAL WANTED FOR FARMING.

"In the last seven years the influx of capital into Canada has been at the rate of about fifty millions sterling per annum. How much capital will come in the next few years cannot be calculated. It is very desirable that abundance of capital should now be provided for farming and mining, in order, for one thing, that the great sum of capital spent in Canada in recent years may become productive, and for another, that the world's supply of food may be largely increased, and that the high cost of living everywhere may be reduced. If capital were provided freely for the construction of farm buildings, for the purchase of agricultural machinery, and generally for increasing quickly the productive power of the country, the transition from the constructive to the productive period would be greatly facilitated."

After further emphasizing the necessity of cheap money for the farming community and discussing the means by which it may be secured, the editor of the *Statist* says:

"It is not the custom of the British people to relinquish work they have once taken in hand, and I have no doubt they will readily provide the additional sums of money now needed to render highly productive the great amounts of capital they have already supplied to Canada, especially when those sums will insure the continued well-being and prosperity of the Canadian people.

LONDON AND MIDLAND INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

To replace funds employed in the purchase of the London Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Canada, and to maintain their Canadian reserves without intrenching on the capital available for the general business, the London and Midland Insurance Company has privately raised the sum of £41,000 at par secured by an issue of five per cent. debentures.—London *Post Magazine*.

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN CANADA LIFE.

It was announced on Monday that owing to continued ill-health, Hon. George A. Cox had retired at his own request, reluctantly acceded to by the directors, from the office of president of the Canada Life Assurance Company. He was elected honorary president, and Mr. E. W. Cox, the general manager of the Canada Life, was appointed to succeed his father in the President's chair, while continuing in office as general manager.

Mr. E. W. Cox has been actively connected with the Canada Life since the early eighties, and identified with the head office management since 1899.