

cannot be hoped to bring greater amounts when the government is doing its best to get a favorable balance of trade to help out the exchange situation. The sales tax will probably be extended, if not to the retail trade, yet to more articles handled by manufacturers, wholesalers and importers. The idea of a federal land tax to be collected by municipalities as a super-tax on their own tax bills or on accompanying bills in return for a small percentage of receipts as commission is growing in favor here, although officials are against it as being difficult to collect. That taxation source will not be tapped in 1921, however. Stamp taxes of all kinds will probably persist for some years, and excise taxes will have to be the chief reliance for some years to come of finance ministers faced with the need of getting an increased revenue.

GOOD INVESTMENT SITUATION IN WINNIPEG

City Receives Fair Price for its Bonds, and There is Steady Local Demand for Victories—Farmers Feel Low Prices

(Staff Correspondence.)

Winnipeg, December 23, 1920.

MONEY for investment seems fairly plentiful in Winnipeg, according to T. R. Billett, a member of the local stock exchange. He states that business in connection with that institution did not indicate that there was any great scarcity of money in Winnipeg. On the contrary, there seems to be no limit to the volume of funds which were brought to light when attractive offerings were presented. Mr. Billett stated that the situation with reference to Victory bonds was very satisfactory and that there was ready absorption for all Victories, with a demand for more. The extremely high premium on United States funds made these securities attractive to United States investors. The latter were taking bonds of short maturity, in the expectation that when these were payable the rate of exchange would be much more nearly normal.

The city of Winnipeg has just made a sale of \$600,000 6 per cent. thirty-year debentures. The sale was made to A. E. Ames and Co. and the Dominion Securities Corporation, the price obtained being 91.33. The sale compares favorably with recent issues. The price received for these Winnipeg bonds is higher than that received two weeks ago by the province of Ontario for its fifteen million dollars' worth of government bonds. Proceeds from this sale will be devoted to the city light and power department, regarding which, in connection with the financial powers of the city of Winnipeg, there was some criticism in *The Monetary Times* last month from a Winnipeg barrister.

Collections are Slow

Collections in the west are reported rather dull for this time of the year. Charles H. Gifford, who is in charge of the rural credits department of the Manitoba government, has stated that repayments in connection with loans were not coming in any too good. Farmers are getting very poor prices for their cereal products this year, also livestock has dropped to such a price that there is scarcely anything left for the farmer. Prices, said Mr. Gifford, for oats and barley in districts where loans had been made, were very low, being down in some cases under pre-war quotations. In districts like these where farmers have been hard hit, it will be necessary to exercise great care to secure the repayment of rural credits outstanding in the next two or three months. Premier Norris and members of the Manitoba government, who have just returned from the east, report that as a result of the conference regarding natural resources of the three western provinces, that some progress has been made towards settlement, but that it would take some time yet before anything definite was done.

Christmas business has been quite brisk this week in Winnipeg, as compared with last, caused to some extent by the removal of the luxury tax. Sales are very prevalent and goods are being sacrificed in many cases.

CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE PROGRESSES

The fifty-third annual report of the Canadian Bank of Commerce just issued further demonstrates the soundness of the Canadian banking system. An appreciable increase in its cash assets, a general development of business, and a net profit for the year, or roughly a quarter of a million in excess of last year, can be considered a satisfactory showing.

After paying a bonus of one per cent., in addition to the regular payment of twelve per cent., on stock, the bank is able to carry forward \$1,783,979, or \$356,244 more than last year, a record which should be regarded with satisfaction by the executive. In addition the bank has written off \$500,000 on bank premises, an amount double that of last year, thus bearing this year a very heavy part of the cost of increasing its business. There has also been set aside \$150,000 for the pension fund to provide for the increase in the number of its officers.

The extent to which the bank is facilitating Canadian manufacturing and agricultural interests is illustrated in the good increase in current loans in Canada, while the part it is playing in developing our foreign trade is shown in the foreign loans account.

An increase in cash assets is a healthy indication. These assets represented by specie and Dominion notes show an advance of \$4,519,215. Another factor, which is also indicative of the general confidence in the institution, is the increase in interest-bearing deposits. These amounted to \$285,065,493 at the end of November last, as against \$241,916,674 at the end of the previous year. The decrease in demand deposits is directly traceable to the cessation of war financing by the Dominion government, as a year ago very large sums were held by the banks as a result of the last Victory loan campaign. There was a considerable drop in holdings of Dominion and provincial government securities. This also is no doubt due to the cessation of war financing by the Dominion government. The following figures show the trend of the principal accounts since 1916:—

	1920.	1919.	1916.
Net profits	\$ 3,306,243	\$ 3,074,892	\$ 2,439,415
Total assets	480,760,624	479,644,205	288,427,579
Quick assets	204,017,440	219,911,724	129,341,420
Liabilities to the public	448,372,665	447,762,467	258,598,176
Capital	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000
Reserve account	15,000,000	15,000,000	13,500,000
Current loans in Canada	231,114,772	213,189,170	133,738,131
Current loans elsewhere	26,863,226	24,938,269	16,504,418

On the whole, the position of the bank is strong, and the latest statement is evidence of the careful and sound management which has brought the institution up to its present standing.

GREAT NORTH INSURANCE COMPANY

W. J. Walker, manager of the Great North Insurance Co., which is operating under the laws of the province of Alberta, with head office at Calgary, has sent the results of the company's business up to December 1, 1920. The company, which was incorporated in 1910, has total assets of more than \$270,000, according to the last annual statement, and is carrying on a good business in the west, as the following figures for the eleven months of 1920 will indicate:—

	Premiums.	Losses.
Livestock	\$ 25,862.43	\$10,700.00
Hail	118,953.85	25,546.27
Fire	37,082.42	25,555.55
Total	\$181,898.70	\$61,801.82