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## ASPECTS OF THE OUTLOOK.

There is a considerable difference between the state of mind of Canadian business men now and twelve months ago. Last year the general attitude was that things would take a turn for the better a month or two ahead, and that attitude persisted for a considerable period in spite of the fact that the due date for revival was passed a number of times without the anticipated happening. This year, the expectation of an immediate revival has disappeared. It is frankly confessed on the street that no favorable development in trade is likely until it is seen that this year's harvest is favorable. And there are some authorities who express the opinion that it will require two years' good crops to start another spell of old-time activity such as that which existed between the years 1909 and 1912.

However that may be, it is satisfactory to observe that the prospects for this year's crops, and particularly those in the West, are of a favorable character. It is early yet, of course, and probably enough there will be a conjunction of weather and other circumstances leading to a scare or two, before the crops have been safely gathered. But at all events, in regard to grain, a considerably larger acreage has been seeded than before, and the crop has begun to grow under conditions which are decidedly favorable. Beyond grain, there is no doubt that considerably increased attention is being given in the West to mixed farming. Competent authorities have been urging its enlargement for years past, and it appears that it is at length being developed. Such development cannot but have a very important influence on Western conditions. The whole outlook in the West, indeed, according to the reports of Western observers, is most hopeful. It has been realised that a condition of permanent prosperity cannot be secured through the constant exchange of squares of prairie land at fabulous prices, and that the only basis of real and continued prosperity is production. Hence the retirement into obscurity of the real estate artist and the advance into prominence of the scientific farmer and the manufacturer.

Of even more far-reaching importance than the favorable crop outlook and the change of mind which has come over the West, is the fact that all over the Dominion there has been for some time past and now is a very decided movement towards economy and thrift. It cannot be seriously pretended that in the past years of plenty, speaking generally, thrift either in public or in private matters has been an outstanding Canadian virtue. But within the last two years a considerable change has been made in this respect and one which makes for a hopeful outlook regarding the future. The necessity of taking care of commitments entered upon, rather lightly, in the days of plenty and of nursing them along until such time as they can be realised to advantage, has forced the restriction of unnecessary and unproductive personal and public expenditure. Not only has economy thus been forced for the present, but probably also the lesson has been widely learned that the fat years do not last for ever, and that it is not a prudent policy to base expenditure on the supposition that they will last. Both in the East and in the West there has been a great wave of economy in the last two years, and it is safe to say that in many cases the lesson has been so hardly learned that the practice will continue when the present urgent need for it has gone, to the great and lasting benefit of the country.

One of the tangible and encouraging signs of this economy has been the increase in the deposits of the banks during recent months. The low point of a downward swing in the banks' deposits which began in December, 1912, seems to have been reached in January last, when their aggregate was \$1,109,827,468 or \$37,000,000 less than the record for December, 1912. Since January, each month has shown an increase. In February the increase was \$34,400,000; in March it was \$13,000,000 (with the March increase the deposits reached a new high record); and in April a further increase of \$9,300,000 was scored, bringing the total to \$1,166,675,024, a new high figure. While probably a large part of this increase was due to the payments

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