

THEY SAY

If we write of quiet times, they say we are pessimistic, and if a bright picture is painted, we "do not see the dark spots." If we criticize a Tory government, we are hopeless Grits, and if a Grit government gets a critical word, they say we are dyed-in-the-wool Tories. When we support the banks, they say we are "an organ," but when the banks are asked to effect a reform, they say we are the "friend of the people." If we print "Small Change," they say it is undignified for a great financial paper, and when we omit it, they say our pages are dry as dust. When we have a good word for western Canada—which is often—the west purrs approval and the east says we are getting a trifle radical. When we reprove the west—which is seldom—the west sniffs contempt and the east "notes a change of attitude." Because we eschew politics, they say we "have no backbone," and when we analyze high finance, we have too much backbone, to say nothing of nerve. If we pay a compliment to Regina, some one cries "What's the matter with Moose Jaw?" and if Moose Jaw is mentioned kindly, the call comes "Did you never hear of Edmonton?" If we write a life insurance article, they say we "have no technical knowledge," and when we ask a life insurance man to write it, he says "Do it yourself." If we publish an unpleasant truth, they say "there was no necessity to do it—and, even if it were correct," we should not have printed it. When we give statistics, they say there is no need for so many figures, and why don't we publish illuminative articles, and when we do, they say there are "not enough statistics." The stock broker says there is insufficient market news and the fire insurance man wants to know if underwriting is not the greatest business in the world and what is a stock-broker anyhow? If the paper is a few hours late, they say they can teach us how to run a paper and they say, yes, that's it, they say.

SMALL CHANGE

Anyhow the Privy Council will tell us what the companies' case decision really means.

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Those who speak reverently, call Sir William Mackenzie a "wizard of finance" and those who don't, just "Bill."

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One of our financial contemporaries claims a new subscription from Egypt, the Sphinx having got the Canadian fever.

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Hamburg-American Line asks, "Have you the wanderlust?" and suggests a few little trips to Egypt, India, etc., as a cure. Trouble is, money got the wanderlust first.

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Prodding the British lion to get Canadian provincial securities listed in the British trustee list has been going on for years. When he does move, will he bite the hand or eat the sugar?

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Sir George Paish's statement that "conditions are fundamentally sound . . . and the disposition to go slowly has created an atmosphere of suspended animation," is a polite way of saying we have to do the financial tightrope act for a while.

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German writer on Canada says that farmhouses in the hinterland are made from a tree trunk and are hovels that would shame Diogenes and make him seem a sybarite in comparison. The only excuse for trotting out Diogenes in Canada is apparently because he lived in 57 B.C., before Premier McBride was noised abroad.

Will Money Be Tight During 1914

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Lord Milner

Sir Felix Schuster

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SAY

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