

Are Absorbing Small Banks

But British Public Do Not View With Alarm the Existing Combination Tendency

KEEN COMPETITION

Big Banks Anxious to Outdo One Another. Furnish Indirect Proof that Agriculture is Prospering.

(Special Staff Correspondent.)

London, Eng., May 5.—One of the most notable tendencies in the financial world of late years is the way in which the joint stock banking companies have been swallowing up the small independent banks all over the country. Few of these old private banks now remain, and the smallest of the older banking companies are now being amalgamated with the large concerns. One company, for example, has between 500 and 600 branch offices throughout the country. There does not seem to be any anxiety on the part of the public at seeing such huge masses of capital under the control of what is practically a single directorate, and the advantage of the system are at present more apparent than the disadvantages.

Recently, there has been a rather amusing struggle between two of our great banks as to which of them should be the first to bring the sum of its deposits up to 9 figures, that is to say £1,000,000 sterling. For some time these two have been competing for the inclusion of a company with numerous branches in the West of England, and the announcement has been made this week that Lloyd's Bank has been the successful bidder. This brings their deposit up to the ambitious figure.

Thereupon, it is announced that their competitor, the London City and Midland Bank, is about to open branches in the same area in the West of England, and this bank will, therefore, shortly be in a position to announce a round figure.

The real lesson which the incident teaches seems to have been overlooked, yet it is one that should receive careful attention in Canada. The companies of Wiltshire and Dorsetshire which have been the area of the friendly struggle of the last few months between these two great banks are almost purely agricultural counties. It does not look, therefore, as if the companies that control such vast accumulations of capital perceive any danger of a slump in British agriculture.

The actual outlook is exactly the reverse. The prosperity of agriculture has been increasing rapidly, and the banks are thoroughly good. This is truly said, in spite of the criticism that are being levelled against the Government's Land Reform Bill.

At any rate our leading bankers do not consider that the Government scheme is at all prejudicial to the prosperous development of agriculture.

Government Department May Directly Affect Quotations on Important Securities.

(Special Staff Correspondent.)

London, Eng., May 4.—The recently published report of the Public Trustee, which is increasingly evident that there is a new and an unexpected force to be reckoned with in the stock market.

In his capacity as an investor of the funds for which he acts as trustee the Public Trustee has been considerably more than £250,000,000, and he states, moreover, in his report, that there is further prospect of additional business to the amount of £300,000,000 in the immediate future.

The fact that in 1913 the new trusts accepted amounted in the aggregate to £67,126,715 is sufficient to give some idea of the rate of increase. The average rate of income secured last year on trustee investments was \$19.04, on non-trustee \$16.

While it is true that a large proportion of the securities held by the Public Trustee, have, of course, been simply taken over, yet the fact cannot be overlooked that the Department is in a position directly to affect the quotations of important securities. The question has an important bearing, inasmuch as those of home rails, real estate, show the largest holdings.

The following table, prepared by the financial editor of "The Times," gives the percentages of the various species of stock held during the last three years.

Percentages of Investment Stocks.				
	March, 1912.	March, 1913.	March, 1914.	
British Funds...	9.6	8.3	7.3	
Foreign Stocks...	6.3	6.3	6.08	
Government Securities...	13.7	13.7	13.1	
Colonial and Foreign Corporation Stocks...	2.7	2.5	2.4	
Bonds, etc.	21.9	21.2	19.6	
Do. British Possessions...	6.3	6.5	7.1	
Do. Foreign...	6.8	7.5	7.5	
Commercial and Industrial...	3.9	4.06	4.2	
As water, electric light, docks, shipping, telegraphs, and tramways...	6.5	4.2	4.3	
Financial trusts, financial, land and investment, insurance, banks, etc.	8.8	7.6	7.7	

Clouds Clearing In Winnipeg

Building Permits as Trade Barometer Show Brighter Days Ahead

ARE AHEAD OF 1912

Record Year Has Been Surpassed—Brisk Demand for Inside Properties—Four New Companies Have Been Incorporated.

(Special Staff Correspondent.)

Winnipeg, Man., May 5.—With building permits for the first four months of the current year amounting to \$5,816,750, contractors and business men in Winnipeg generally expect that trade conditions will prove satisfactory throughout the season. The permits are half a million dollars ahead of 1912, in which year all records were broken and are about a million dollars ahead of last year.

In reply to a criticism made, that permits were being issued for which no building was being done, building inspector Rodgers issued the statement that out of forty-seven permits for apartment blocks issued, there are only five which have not been commenced.

Money or loans is slightly easier than at this time last year and it is also certainly more plentiful; it is, however, still high ranging from 7 to 8 per cent, with the majority of loans arranged at 7 1/2 of 8 per cent. Easier money and more of it has stimulated building, and this in turn has put new life into the real estate market. So in the last few weeks there have been more turn-over than for a long period prior to that.

While much of the land being sold is inside building lots for immediate improvement, the outlying sections on all sides are also experiencing more activity. The greatest demand in these localities is for cottages and the low or priced houses and these are in good demand.

In Kildonan, immediately north of Winnipeg, on May 29, the ratepayers voted on a bond issue for \$15,000 for a new municipal hall, with east and west Kildonan are at the present time arranging debenture issues for the purposes of constructing sewers.

Four new companies were incorporated in Winnipeg last week, aggregating a capital stock of \$1,345,000. The largest of these was the Christie Grant Company, who are starting a large mail order business, their charter allowing them a capital stock of one million dollars.

There has been also a moderate fall-off in the business of some of the important western banks, but on the whole the volume of transactions in this part of Canada has been well maintained.

The conditions of affairs are recognized as being temporary. Some or less of the trade depression will pass and with the increased demand for their credits and facilities always seen in periods of expansion, the banks will see their profits rise to new high levels. In the meantime it is probable that the establishment of new branches will proceed more slowly than in the past, possibly, but will be an increased disposition on the part of the bankers to weed out or close unprofitable offices. They will be more disposed to do this inasmuch as several of the provinces have increased the rates of bank taxation in the last few months. By Ontario's new schedule taxes of the banks operating in that province are more than doubled. In the effort to meet economies to meet the increased imports it is thus likely to happen that some small communities will be deprived of facilities and prizes by them, and in other communities the charges levied for the services or facilities of the banks must necessarily be increased.

It is in the interest alike of bankers, farmers, and politicians that everything possible be done to abridge or shorten the period of depression, to hasten the return of prosperity. The question then arises—What line of action or policy is best calculated to produce that result?

Fourth National is optimistic.

May Circular Calls Attention to Favorable Prospects.

New York, May 1.—In its May circular, the Fourth National Bank, which is a leading bank in the United States, is optimistic.

Regarding the movement inaugurated to operate cotton and other warehouses in the south which are each year given as collateral to secure an immense volume of bills discounted by banks, the circular says:

"This movement is of the greatest importance at the moment when the federal reserve banks are reorganizing their facilities, the new banking system count as one of its most valuable benefits and everything is being done to safeguard the issuing of warehouse receipts so that bankers could be absolutely certain of their validity. Because of the inadequate provisions at present offered, there have been some heavy losses taken by banks in recent years, which in most cases have been due to the slipshod methods which have so long prevailed in this class of business."

The circular concludes: "General business is naturally a great deal unsettled at the moment because of the unexpected developments in Mexico. Underlying conditions are sound and if the Mexican situation should be cleared up there is little doubt that business would pick up and that a great deal of construction work would be undertaken. The banks are in a strong position and the New York bank surplus stands at a level which compares favorably with the figures shown at this date in other years. Besides that, the whole country is practicing economies which will mean a great deal later on. It is a situation in which everyone should keep a cool head."

Neither France, Russia nor Germany are gold producers, and the Bank of England's source of new supply is, of course, the consignments that arrive every week from South Africa.

All indications point, therefore, to a further increase in the discount rates in London with a view of attracting gold.

Not Reflected in Bank Reports

Period of Depression Has Not Fallen Entirely Within Fiscal Year

PROFITS DIMINISHING

Falling Off is Particularly Noticeable in the West, But Business Has Not Been as Good in East, Either.

By H. M. P. ECKHARDT.

Although the business depression has not yet found reflection in the bank reports it is understood that the earnings of the important banks are not showing up as well as in 1913, and the presumption is that reports published late in the summer and in the fall will show some falling off. Two of the large banks—the Merchants and the Imperial—end their fiscal year on April 30th; the Sterling and the National also report to stockholders as of April 30th, and the Home reports at the year ending May 31st. However, in the case of these banks the fiscal year covered in the forthcoming reports will contain a considerable part of 1913, in which good profits were made; but as regards the banks which publish results later in the year, their reports will deal mostly with 1914 business.

At the present time the diminution of profits is most noticeable in two directions. The branches in western Canada are not transacting so great a volume of business as in 1913. That is plainly evidenced by the clearing-house statistics—all the western centres show large decreases in clearings from week to week. In some cases the falling off is phenomenal—from 20 to 30 per cent, with occasional instances of 40 per cent. decreases. This indicates a considerable decrease in commercial activity and decreased improvement in turn means a less insistent demand for banking credits. Rates of discount in the west have not fallen to any extent, but the volume of loans and discounts has been down, and the western branches, or some of them, are beginning to send in smaller profits to the head offices. At the same time the New York agencies of the banks are making comparatively poor profits, owing to the very low rates prevailing on call loans. Call loans in New York bring from 1 1/2 to 2 p.c., of which 1/2 p.c. is paid to the State of New York in the form of interest on the reserve to our banks of from only 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 p.c. per annum on the funds employed in Wall Street. And yet it is necessary to carry large amounts in that market in order to effect loans, which are surely available in large blocks at a moment's notice.

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Dividend Notices

THE QUEBEC BANK.
Quarterly Dividend.

NOTICE is hereby given that a Dividend of One and Three Quarters per cent, upon the Paid-up Capital Stock of this Institution has been declared for the Current Quarter, and that the same will be payable at its Banking House, in this City, and at its Branches, on and after Monday the 1st day of June next.

The Transfer Books will be closed from the Sixteenth to the Thirtieth day of May (both days inclusive).

B. B. STEVENSON,
General Manager.
Quebec, 10th April, 1914.

THE BANK OF TORONTO.

Dividend No. 131.
NOTICE is hereby given that a Dividend of Two and Three-quarters Per Cent, for the current quarter, being at the rate of Eleven Per Cent, per annum, upon the paid-up capital stock of the Bank, has this day been declared, and that the same will be payable at the Bank and its Branches on and after the 1st day of June next, to Shareholders of record at the close of business on the 15th day of May next.

By order of the Board,
THOS. F. HOW,
General Manager.
The Bank of Toronto, TORONTO,
April 28th, 1914.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

NOTICE is hereby given that a Dividend of two-and-one-half per cent, upon the paid-up Capital Stock of this Institution has been declared for the three months ending 30th April, 1914, also a Bonus of One per cent, and that the same will be payable at its Banking House in this City, and at its Branches, on and after Monday, the First Day of June next, to Shareholders of record of 30th April, 1914.

By order of the Board,
FREDERICK WILLIAMS-TAYLOR,
General Manager.
Montreal, 24th April, 1914.

UNION BANK OF CANADA.

Dividend No. 109.
NOTICE is hereby given that a Dividend at the rate of 5 per cent, per annum on the paid-up Capital Stock of this Institution has been declared for the current quarter, and that the same will be payable at its Banking House in this City, and at its Branches, on and after Monday, the first day of June next.

The Transfer Books will be closed from the 15th to the 31st of May, both days inclusive.

By order of the Board,
G. H. GILLESPIE,
General Manager.
Winnipeg, April 19th, 1914.

THE BANK OF OTTAWA.

Dividend No. 91.

NOTICE is hereby given that a Dividend of Three per cent, being at the rate of Twelve per cent, per annum, upon the paid-up capital stock of this Bank, has this day been declared for the current quarter, and that the said dividend will be payable at the Bank and its branches on and after Monday, the First day of June, 1914, to shareholders of record at the close of business on the 18th day of May next.

By order of the Board,
GEORGE BURN,
General Manager.
Ottawa, Ont.,
April 14th, 1914.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for Public Building, St. Agathe, P.Q.," will be received at the office of the undersigned, at St. Agathe, P.Q., until 4:00 P.M., on Monday, May 11, 1914, for the construction of a Public Building at St. Agathe, P.Q.

Plans, specifications and form of contract can be seen and forms of tender obtained at the office of Messrs. Finley & Gagnon, architects, Birks New Building, Montreal, P.Q., at the office of Mr. R. L. Deschamps, Post Office, St. Agathe, P.Q., and at this Department.

Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed forms supplied, and signed with their actual signatures, stating their occupations and places of residence. In case of firms, the actual signature, the nature of the occupation, and place of residence of each member of the firm must be given.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered bank, payable to the order of the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, equal to ten per cent, (10 p.c.) of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the person tendering declines to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or fail to complete the work contracted for. If the tender is not accepted the cheque will be returned.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,
R. C. DESROCHERS,
Secretary,
Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, April 16, 1914.

New York, May 4.—The production of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company's smelters in April was 22,900,000 lbs. of copper.

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA.
The Bank of Nova Scotia has closed its branch at Whitney Pier.

BUILDING AT SYDNEY.
Sydney, N.S., May 4.—The number of building permits issued in the month of April, 1914, is 8, with a value of \$12,140.00.

FRONT RANK INVESTMENTS

THE UNION RECORD OF CANADIAN MUNICIPAL DEBENTURES PROPERLY PLACES THEM FOR SAFETY, IN THE FRONT RANK OF ALL INVESTMENTS.

THE FOLLOWING CONSTITUTE AN UNUSUALLY ATTRACTIVE GROUP TO SELECT FROM:

1. THEY CAN BE PURCHASED IN AMOUNTS OF APPROXIMATELY \$100 AND UPWARDS.

2. THEY MATURE AT PRACTICALLY ALL PERIODS FROM ONE TO FIFTY YEARS.

3. THEY ARE OFFERED TO YIELD FROM 4 1/2 TO 6 1/2 PER CENT INTEREST.

	YIELD		YIELD
Ontario Government	4.50%	St. Laurent, Que.	5.38%
Owen Sound, Ont.	4.90%	Nelson, B.C.	5.50%
Tp. Barton, Ont.	4.90%	Tp. Richmond, B.C.	5.50%
Brockville, Ont.	5.00%	Medicine Hat, Alta.	5.38%
Hespeler, Ont.	5.00%	Streetsville, Ont.	5.50%
Brandon, Man.	5.10%	Dist. N. Vancouver, B.C.	5.50%
Tp. Bruce, Ont.	5.12%	Sudbury (Sep. Schools), Ont.	5.75%
Sydney, N.S.	5.20%	Transcona, Man.	6.00%
Burlington, Ont.	5.20%	Estevan, Sask.	6.00%
Milton, Ont.	5.25%	Wetaskiwin, Sask.	6.50%
North Bay, Ont.	5.25%	Alberta Schools Distr.	6.75%
Elmira, Ont.	5.25%		
Grimby, Ont.	5.25%		
Sudbury, Ont.	5.38%		

WRITE FOR FULL PARTICULARS, PROMPTLY SENT ON REQUEST.

A. E. AMES & CO.
Investment Bankers
UNION BANK BUILDING, TORONTO.
Established 1889

The ROYAL BANK of CANADA

Incorporated 1869

Capital Authorized - - - - - \$25,000,000
Capital Paid Up - - - - - \$11,500,000
Reserve Funds - - - - - \$11,500,000
Total Assets - - - - - \$180,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: MONTREAL.
H. S. HOLT, President. E. L. PEASE, Vice-President and General Manager.
335 Branches in CANADA and NEWFOUNDLAND; 35 Branches in CUBA, PORTO RICO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC and BRITISH WEST INDIES.
LONDON, ENG., Princes Street, E. C. NEW YORK, Cor. William and Cedar Street.
SAVINGS DEPARTMENT at all Branches

THE BANK OF OTTAWA

ESTABLISHED 1874

Paid-Up Capital - - - - - \$4,000,000
Reserve - - - - - 4,750,000

HEAD OFFICE - OTTAWA, Canada

An efficient banking service is furnished by this Institution to Corporations, Merchants, and Business Firms

INCORPORATIONS

Many New Ventures Started in Canadian Centres.

Montreal, Que.—De Leon Costume Company, Limited, \$50,000. J. W. Rousseau, L. A. Dubruin, L. E. Parent, M. Dubruin, P. Dubruin, Beaver Realty Company, Limited, \$200,000. W. R. L. Shanks, D. P. Gilmore, F. G. Bush, G. H. Drennon and H. W. Jackson.—The Accounting & Tabulating Corporation, Limited, \$450,000. L. Macfarlane, C. A. Pope, G. Barclay, W. B. Scott and J. C. Cartwright.—Timber Properties & Securities, Limited, \$50,000. W. R. L. Shanks, F. G. Bush, G. H. Drennon and H. W. Jackson.—A. Dubord & Company, Limited, \$60,000. T. Rinfret, J. E. Billette, A. R. Whitney, P. Miron, R. Brodeur and L. La-Jolie.—A. Laurion & Company, Limited, \$100,000. A. Laurion, A. La-riviere, Mrs. R. Del. Laulion and Mrs. C. Laurion.—The Premier Pants Mfg. Co., Limited, \$50,000. J. Ballon, S. Rubin, C. Rubin, A. Gagnon and J. Rubin.—Canadian Lacopelites Company, Limited, \$25,000. J. S. Loyell, W. Laid, R. Gowans, J. J. Dashedow and J. Ellis.—Federal Paper Company Limited, \$100,000. J. J. Meagher, H. N. Chauvin, P. W. Peacock, J. E. Coul-in and R. H. Dore.—Slalovsky & Herz-weig, Limited, \$20,000. J. O'Reilly, J. Johnston, H. J. Trilley, P. Bercevicich and E. Lafontaine.—La Marquisse, Ltd., \$50,000. G. Eddington, A. P. Copson, O. Douglass, W. E. McAdams and C. L. McAdams.—The Canadian Underwear Company, Limited, \$50,000. R. Hall, G. C. Papineau-Couture, L. Fitch, P. Badaux, V. W. L. Henry-Anderson.

Toronto, Ont.—United Fugur Stores Limited, \$85,000. W. A. J. Case, J. B. Taylor, C. G. Lynch, J. A. Christlaw and C. E. L. Babcock.—Marjale-Bastine Explosives, Limited, \$4,000. J. Allen, A. C. Frost, C. M. Sclanders, A. A. Dickson and A. P. Pousset.—Principale Steamships, Limited, \$150,000. G. Ruel, S. C. Chivney, A. J. Reid, W. B. Fleming and G. N. Lamprecht.—Polson Dry Dock & Shipbuilding Co., Limited, \$2,000,000. J. Stewart, W. Glehrst, G. Hancock, M. Aylesworth and Waldon Lawr.—Automatic Chem-

ical Sprinkler Company, Limited, \$100,000. G. A. Robinson, A. G. Boylan, G. Chabre, A. G. Moore and P. K. Sproule.—South America Cabinet Woods, Limited, \$1,000,000. C. P. J. Collier, H. P. Welsh, E. B. Ridge, E. M. Carruthers and A. Ritchie.

Ottawa, Ont.—Hotel Cecil Company, Limited, \$75,000. H. E. Jewell, R. G. Cole, E. P. Burritt, S. R. Broadfoot and G. M. Shiley.—Sun Realty, Ltd., \$250,000. F. Williams, W. C. Perkins, H. D. McCormick, R. M. Perkins and J. Matheson.—Moyher, Limited, \$200,000. J. R. G. Osborne, S. H. Broadfoot, R. Phillips, E. Buck and F. S. McPhail.—Blackburn Springs, Limited, \$100,000. J. Bonet, A. Belanger, A. Boutet, A. Bonet, Capital Storage Co., Ltd., \$500,000. R. G. Cole, E. P. Burritt, S. R. Broadfoot, W. H. E. Lepine and G. M. Shiley.

St. John, N.B.—The Kerstead & Mercer Fox & Fur Company, Ltd., \$1,000,000. J. W. Kerstead, C. J. Mercer, J. A. S. Kerstead, H. A. Porter, A. M. Stulwick.

Winnipeg, Man.—Grain Securities, Limited, \$50,000. H. Phillips, C. S. R. Anderson, Rogers, H. St. Clair Scarth, W. M. Shaw and K. H. Armstrong.

St. Catharines, Ont.—The Welch Co., Limited, \$200,000. G. M. Clark, W. W. Perry, C. H. C. Leggett, P. Stokes, E. E. Sutherland, and E. Davis.

Walkerville, Ont.—Dominion Office Supply Company, Limited, \$25,000. G. Kuhlmann, F. C. Leyard, E. L. Kuhlmann, K. L. Leyard and C. W. Northwood.

Renfrew, Ont.—A. Barnett & Company, Limited, \$250,000. J. E. H. Barnett, T. P. Barnett, J. G. Barnett, and C. Browne.

Quebec Incorporations.
The New Carlton, Limited, \$45,000. Hotel Riendeau, Limited, \$40,000. J. T. R. Peladeau Hotel, Limited, \$200,000.

The Legal Publishing Company of Canada, \$20,000. Hotel National, Limited, \$19,000. Hotel Bristol, Limited, \$20,000. Braun, Limited, \$20,000. Montreal Vessel Agency, Limited, \$5,000.

Boyer West Realty & Lumber, Ltd., \$48,000. Three Rivers Land Company, \$75,000. The Lower Ottawa Forest Protective Association, Limited, \$10,000. The undermentioned companies have been authorized to change their names:—Bannerman, Limited, is now Bronx Realty Co., Limited. United Clear Stores, Limited, is now Amalgamated Clear Stores, Limited. Stanfords, Limited, have decreased their capital from \$500,000 to \$210,000.