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INDEX TO PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

	PAGE
Prominent Topics.....	781, 783
General Financial Situation.....	785
Commercial Union Assurance Company.....	787
Imperial Bank of Canada.....	789
Profits of British Bankers.....	791
Fire Companies Premiums & Losses in Canada, 1911.....	793
The Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation.....	795
Colonel W. C. Macdonald elected President of A.S.A.....	795
Caledonian Insurance Company.....	797
Hon. W. H. Hotchkiss in Montreal.....	797
Legal Decision.....	799
Personal Paragraphs.....	799
Canadian Fire Record.....	799
Insurance Briefs.....	801
Market and Financial Briefs.....	803
Stock Exchange Notes, Bank and Traffic Returns ...	809
Stock and Bond Lists.....	811, 813
ANNUAL STATEMENTS:	
Commercial Union.....	804
Employers' Liability Assurance.....	807
Caledonian Insurance.....	815
Imperial Bank.....	816

THE GENERAL FINANCIAL SITUATION.

The gold from the Transvaal mines offered in London this week amounted to about \$5,500,000. India secured \$1,000,000 and the balance was taken by the Bank of England. In the London market rates for money and discounts are about the same as a week ago. Call money is $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; short bills are 3 to $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent.; three months, 3 to 3-1-16 per cent. Bank rate has been continued at 3 p.c. The Bank of France also maintains its official rate at 3 p.c., and the Imperial Bank of Germany so far adheres to its 5 p.c. quotation. It is said that the present year, so far as Germany is concerned, stands alone in that the first five months passed without a reduction in the Reichbank's rate of discount. This serves to show the seriousness of the situation created by the withdrawal of the French funds. The June settlements are approaching, and indications are that the American loans which partly filled the void created by the withdrawal of French deposits, will have to be repaid shortly by Berlin. In the Paris market discounts are $2\frac{7}{8}$ and in Berlin they are 4 p.c.

The financial markets in London are naturally disquieted over the threatening labor outlook. England has certainly had troublous times with her workingmen. Trade and commerce were first upset by the railway strikes. Then came the coal strike which temporarily paralyzed many industries. Now the strike of the transport workers is to be reckoned with. It seems that with each new success the demands of the labor unions increase; and an all-round large increase in the cost of living and cost of production in the British Isles seems inevitable. This may have some effect in lessening the ability of the British manufacturers and distributors to supply the foreign and colonial markets. The coal strike was handled without much violence occurring. It seems scarcely possible that the present strike will be as peaceful. Judging from the news items cabled from Europe, the British Government is making elaborate preparations for using the military if serious disturbances develop. However reluctant the ministers may be to employ the soldiers, they will be laying up trouble for themselves and for the whole country if they fail to protect men who are willing to work from violence at the hands of the strikers and their friends.

New York has not been notably affected by the British disturbances. Call loans are $2\frac{3}{4}$ p.c.; sixty day loans, 3 to $3\frac{1}{4}$; ninety days, 3 to $3\frac{1}{4}$; six months, $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{3}{4}$. The average figures of the clearing house banks on Saturday showed the loans to have contracted \$2,803,000, while the cash increased \$5,780,000, the result of the movements being a gain of \$5,265,000 in surplus. The money market in Wall Street has been free from any special demands from the speculative interests during the week.

Stocks have been dull and almost lifeless. The market has continued to interest itself largely in the sensational political contest between the two Republican champions. As there are only two weeks intervening before the assembling of the national convention at Chicago, it is to be expected that the leading market operators will give perhaps the principal share of their attention to the moves of the Roosevelt and Taft factions, until it is definitely settled who is to be the Republican standard bearer in the election. And even after that question is settled there are others almost as interesting to take its place. Will there be a third party founded? Will the Democrats manage to benefit enormously from the Republican divisions? So, as great political turmoil is to be expected on the other side of the international boundary during the next four months, many well informed parties are inclined to expect comparative quiet in Wall Street.

Some American and Canadian interests are also interested greatly in recent Cuban developments. The rebellion and disturbances there, if continued or protracted, promise to interfere seriously with the