

manager, but also a government inspector. If a bank or one of its officials really means to inaugurate and carry on financial malpractices, practically nothing will stop it from its downward career and final crash. In banking, as in everything else, the unknown quantity is human nature.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Turkish budget for the year shows a deficit of nearly \$22,000,000, a piece of genuine Turkish delight.

A despatch from Dunara, Manitoba, says that a farmer in boring for water accidentally struck a sort of King Solomon's mine of gold, silver, iron, copper, and nickel. He is about to organize a company to work the claim. He did not strike water, although the shareholders of the new company may do so. The farmer thinks his discoveries are the remains of an antediluvian volcanic eruption, while the prospective stockholders may discover their investment to be postdiluvian prairie out-breaks. The Manitoba farmer should get along with his farming.

Speaking of the ratification of the French trade treaty, Mr. Fielding in the House of Commons the other day, showed that Canada had reached the point when it can afford to lay down its trade and tariff dicta. The question was discussed in Parliament chiefly in relation to the United States tariff, but the discussion has been well digested in other countries, most of all perhaps in Germany, neighbor to France, with whom the present treaty is being ratified. Germany is already burdened with a surtax. Canada's reciprocal arrangement with France is almost as bad as another tariff impost. In 1905 the value of France's total trade with Canada exceeded Germany's total trade with Canada by \$1,000,000. In 1906 the excess in favor of France was \$1,000,000; in 1907, nearly \$2,000,000; in 1908, nearly \$2,000,000; and in 1909, nearly \$4,000,000. The strange factor in this particular international trade situation is that unofficial Germany should continue to move heaven and earth in order to win favorable Canadian opinion, to increase trade and to lop off the surtax, while official Germany remains silent. The German naval budget estimates of approximately \$108,000,000 for 1910 is the largest in that country's history. The Berlin newspapers have received it in silence. The naval policy of one Germany and the commercial policy of another make a curious comparison. Will the Damoclean sword of official Germany one day fall upon the head of unofficial Germany?

The National Monetary Commission held a meeting at Washington the other day, when provision was made for the publication of elaborate reports that have been prepared for the Commission by various writers. The first volume will be issued soon after Congress meets. A glance at the list of proposed publications shows that it is intended to supply an extremely valuable banking library. One volume, for instance, will contain 450 pages of interviews on the currency systems of England, France, Germany, Switzerland and Italy. Special books are being written by experts regarding the banking systems of those countries, and also of Mexico, Belgium, Sweden and Japan. The United States banking problems and history are covered with several books and reports, while the whole library will be supplemented with special articles and a portfolio of twenty-four diagrams in color indicating the operations and growth of the different sorts of banks, changes in the money supply, foreign and domestic movements of money and merchandise, rates of discount and of foreign and domestic exchange in the United States and other countries during the past forty years. The Monetary Commission, it will be remembered, conducted personal in-

quiries in the leading Canadian cities, and the substance of these will be published later. The Commission will send to press the "History of Banking in Canada" by Mr. R. M. Breckenridge, while Dr. Joseph French Johnson, of New York University, is preparing a volume on the Canadian banking system. The United States Monetary Commission will be responsible for the compilation of valuable banking data. The trouble is that the average banker will need several renewals of the lease of life in order to read, mark, learn and even cursorily digest.

The recent tendency towards the elimination of competition in the United States, if not resisted, thinks Mr. Henry Clews, will rapidly lead to Socialism, national decay and revolution. He bases this assumption upon the decision of the United States Circuit Court against the Standard Oil Company. This decision was not entirely unexpected, but it emphasizes the ban which the courts across the border are placing upon decided efforts to suppress competition. While the United States government and courts recognize that extreme or unintelligent acts towards great combinations of capital, which are necessary to the development of the country, are harmful, they evidently intend to comply with the popular demand for adequate restraint of monopolies and large aggregations of capital. The series of industrial mergers, large and small, recently consummated in Canada makes the question of interest to North America generally. Broadly speaking, an industrial amalgamation is usually made for at least one of three reasons—to swallow the shortcomings of one or more of the concerns absorbed in the merger, to make manufacturing and trading more efficient and more economical, or to raise the price of commodities. The first reason is chiefly the concern of the shareholder, the second is legitimate business, and helps the country. For the third reason there is little support unless it can be proved that extreme competition has driven prices below a profit-making level.

Cosmopolitan Canada is well illustrated in a government schedule showing the former nationalities of persons who were naturalized last year. The United States paid a tribute to the Dominion's freedom and opportunities by sending 9,000 of their citizens to this country during the twelve months of 1908, all to become Canadians. Next in matter of numbers, Austria supplied the Dominion with 3,982 naturalized citizens, while Germany contributed 585. Russia sent 3,046, and 1,083 Galicians, who by the way make industrious and law-abiding countrymen, assumed citizenship burdens. Norway and Sweden between them accounted for 1,349 persons. Italians to the number of 1,862 took the oath of allegiance—a good record in view of the fact that the average Italian is fond of dividing his year between America and Italy. Three hundred and eighteen Belgians, 146 Danes, 78 Dutch, 328 Finns, 580 Hungarians, 187 Icelanders, 271 Roumanians were also naturalized during the year. One would have expected to find a larger number than 652 French in view of the position of Quebec Province. Only 35 Jews took out their naturalization papers, while, as a striking contrast, 439 Japanese and 315 Chinese became Canadian citizens. The Argentine Republic contributed 2; Poland, 75; Mexico, 6, and Montenegro, 7. From Syria came 221 new Canadians, 59 from Turkey, 5 from Arabia, 2 from Egypt, 3 from Persia, and finally to give a real cosmopolitan touch to the list, there entered Canada to enjoy the benefits of British freedom, 7 Bohemians, 8 Brazilians, 19 Bucovinians, 1 Chilian, 1 African, 1 Columbian, 1 Croatian, 1 Cuban, 1 Macedonian, 1 Servian. Of the Doukhobour tribe, whose ideas of the value of garments differ from those of the police and the twentieth century, only 2 came into the Canadian fold by naturalization.