

Monetary Times

Trade Review and Insurance Chronicle
of Canada

Address: Corner Church and Court Streets, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Telephone: Main 7404, Branch Exchange connecting all departments.

Cable Address: "Montimes, Toronto."

Montreal Office: 628 Transportation Building. Telephone Main 8436.
T. C. Allum, Editorial Representative.

Winnipeg Office: 1008 McArthur Building. Telephone Main 2914.
G. W. Goodall, Western Manager.

Vancouver Office: 403-4 Bank of Ottawa Building. Telephone Seymour 9101

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One Year	Six Months	Three Months	Single Copy
\$3.00	\$1.75	\$1.00	10 Cents

ADVERTISING RATES UPON REQUEST.

The Monetary Times was established in 1867, the year of Confederation. It absorbed in 1869 The Intercolonial Journal of Commerce, of Montreal; in 1870, The Trade Review, of Montreal; and The Toronto Journal of Commerce. The Monetary Times does not necessarily endorse the statements and opinions of its correspondents, nor does it hold itself responsible therefor. The Monetary Times invites information from its readers to aid in excluding from its columns fraudulent and objectionable advertisements. All information will be treated confidentially.

SUBSCRIBERS PLEASE NOTE:

When changing your mailing instructions, be sure to state fully both your old and your new address.

All mailed papers are sent direct to Friday evening trains. Any subscriber who receives his paper late will confer a favor by complaining to the circulation department.

SEE TO EMPLOYMENT

Plans are well in hand respecting Canada's assistance in the European war. The financial position has been described by a leading banker as impregnable. Many industries are active as a result of orders for war equipment and material. Others are busy, indirectly, as a result of the struggle. Sentiment is improving as it should improve on the facts, and favorable sentiment is a strong help to business. The next important question is employment. Already some practical steps are being taken. The provincial highways commission of Saskatchewan will employ in road building 2,500 men in the areas of the province affected by drought. The Toronto Harbor Commission proposes to proceed with its work and many other employers of labor are arranging to keep hands busy.

The bureau of municipal research at Toronto asks a pertinent question: "Should any willing worker be without employment in a country as rich in resources as Canada, no matter how many may come in from other lands?"

"Yet unemployment exists—even when there is work enough for all workers, if properly distributed. General restriction of immigration, deportation, or charitable work will never solve the problem. Some form of central control is what we need."

For some time past *The Monetary Times* has advocated greater production in Canada. The Montreal Gazette, endorsing that attitude, says:

Efforts in Canada must be directed more and more at a time like the present to securing a greater measure of production and to building up a balance of trade which will go towards offsetting the large obligations of the country abroad. In all measures that will promote a free marketing of foodstuffs and manufactures, the banks are prepared to lend all assistance and to draw when needed on the emergency provisions created for the present situation.

There are two main dangers arising out of the European situation which have to be considered here. One is

the danger that there will be difficulty later on in meeting interest obligations abroad. The other is the danger of unemployment. To embark on a large programme of public undertakings, or rather to continue, without modification, the programme that has been mapped out, would lessen the second danger, but would increase the first. It would give a measure of fictitious prosperity at the cost of capital within the country at a time when supplies of new capital are shut off and are likely to be shut off for some time to come, and would add to the difficulties of meeting the country's obligations abroad.

It will be easier to meet those obligations and to maintain the credit of the country in the eyes of the world, it is argued, if government and municipalities make up their minds to go easy on their expenditures. Necessarily this must mean distress, unemployment and lower wages, which will have to be dealt with by broad measures of relief, but it is regarded as the lesser of the two dangers.

That the farmers of Canada can do the Empire a good turn, with profit to themselves, by largely increasing their wheat acreage for next season's crop, is the excellent system expressed in a cablegram just received from a number of members of the Liverpool Corn Exchange. The area likely to be sown to wheat in Europe will be reduced seriously owing to the mobilization of nearly twenty million men. The Dominion government is strongly impressed with the desirability of increasing the wheat acreage in Canada. That is a matter of great importance and might help the unemployment question.

Back to the land, back to the normal, and backbone to business.

Those who plan their business campaign in war time will keep their business in peace time.

After trying to absorb the wandering dissertations of Mr. W. F. Maclean, M.P., regarding Canada's banking system, it seems that what is really wanted is a money fountain where the button can be pressed while the dollars flow, regardless of a basis of credit.

PAY YOUR DEBTS

A moratorium is not a permanent measure of financial relief. It is a temporary and emergency measure postponing the settlement of certain debts. It does not cancel a debt. It merely puts off the day of its payment. The best way to deal with a debt at any time is to pay it as soon as possible. At Fairbank, a suburb of Toronto, the people passed a resolution asking the government to declare a moratorium for a year. The reason given for such an extraordinary proposal in regard to an emergency measure was that many found it impossible to meet payments in respect of real estate purchases. But the same condition probably would have prevailed, war or no war. A great number of speculative real estate purchases will have to be put on a proper basis and the war has made no difference to that fact, although the war is sometimes used as an excuse. As a rule, the man who has purchased property for his home or purely as an investment, and not as a gambler in a real estate boom, is able to meet his principal and interest payments and to get necessary mortgage renewals at a legitimate rate of interest.

There is considerable misapprehension about the alleged benefits of a moratorium. *The Monetary Times*