

They demand cotton goods at prices which the present cost of raw cotton makes impossible altogether. So the mills, if they are to continue operating, are faced with the necessity of piling up cotton goods subject to the risk of a very heavy fall in all cotton prices when the 1911 crop begins to affect the market. The prospect is for heavy curtailment by mills in the north and south. The conditions in the States have their certain bearing upon the operations of the Canadian cotton companies.

In Canada money rates have at last begun to work easier. And call loans at Montreal and Toronto may be said to rule at 5 to 5½ p.c. The tendency towards ease now manifest in London should have some effect in relaxing the monetary strain in the Dominion. With a low Bank of England rate and cheap money in the London market it will be much easier for our financiers to place good Canadian bonds and debentures in quantity with British investors. The resumption of our borrowing movement in London would affect the position of our banks in several ways. In the first place the "deposits elsewhere than in Canada" should again begin to move upwards. Next the call loans and bank balances carried in London and New York might begin to increase. It is altogether likely that the banks have been making some large loans during the past six or seven months to municipalities and corporations which were awaiting a favorable season for selling bonds in London. The coming of a favorable London market should thus afford the Canadian banks the means of procuring repayment of special loans of this character, and thus put them in funds for making other loans.

ASPECTS OF IMMIGRATION.

The statement by Hon. Mr. Oliver, Minister of the Interior, with regard to immigration during the fiscal year now drawing to a close synchronised with the appearance of a number of newspaper reports regarding the "record" immigration which may be expected during the coming spring. For the nine months, April to December, 1910, inclusive, the number of immigrants into Canada was 253,326; for the fiscal year, the number will be over 300,000, compared with 208,704 for the last fiscal year, 189,000 five years ago, and 49,000 ten years ago. By the steamships of the C.P.R. alone, it is estimated, 25,000 second and third-class passengers will be brought to Canada during the next three months; from the West it is stated that, daily, long trains of cars filled with settlers' effects are crossing the southern boundary. From both east and south, immigrants are pouring into "the land of promise."

The facts are gratifying. Heavy immigration of population and capital means a continued stimulus to activity in every branch of trade and industry; the opening up of larger areas of agricultural land to cultivation; the further development of our mineral resources; a greater demand for manufactured commodities and for banking accommodation. But it is easy in a matter of this kind to be led away by the fascination of figures. Immigration on a record scale may be from many points of view gratifying, but, nevertheless, it may not be desirable. The test of the success of the Government's present immigration policy, started fourteen years ago, is quality and not quantity. Comparatively, it is a matter of minor importance whether the population of the Dominion is added to at the rate of 200,000 a year, or 300,000 a year. But it is of primary importance that the immigrants, whatever their numbers, should be physically and morally healthy, mentally intelligent, adaptable to the requirements and "atmosphere" of their new country, capable of self-government upon a democratic basis.

Rigorous immigration regulations have, no doubt, done good work in raising the general standard of immigrants. That the immigrants of quite recent years are of a decidedly superior stamp, in comparison with those which formerly came to Canada, is the opinion of all the best authorities upon this subject. Yet these immigration rules by their exclusion of obvious undesirables have only dealt with the elements of the matter. One has only to survey, here in Montreal, the cosmopolitan character of the population; the various groups who speak other languages than the prevalent French and English, to realise the immensity of the task which lies before the Canadian statesman in building up into a homogenous nation, self-governing and self-respecting, all these elements, some ill-educated and ignorant of the art of self-government. And the East does not in this respect show the problem where it is most acute. The heterogeneous collection of nationalities now filling up the West form a problem in development, only encountered before in the United States, and then under differing circumstances, where the problem possibly was less difficult and the solution less pressing.

Mr. Magrath, M.P., wrote a little book on this subject a short time ago, which may be commended for its sensible discussion of this very serious, and even vital, matter. In our view it is to the Northwest of Europe and to the United States that we must look to secure the immigrants best fitted for Canadian conditions, and most likely to develop into "good Canadians." And from two of the countries of North-Western Europe, we cannot look for any marked additions to the population.