

and ought to be done. One thing is certain; the British taxpayer is not at present in the humour to acquiesce in further taxation for warlike purposes; and Mr. Churchill's forecast of such an increase has caused grave disquietude. This most difficult of questions can only be settled by a nation that realises no present and foresees no future aggression from any quarters; and that is the state of the public mind in this country to-day.

On the Continent of Europe the remarkable economic change that has come over Germany is now plainly apparent. It is not only that Germany finds herself at the beginning of a decided slump in trade, and forced to resort to sharp pressure and to new devices to raise revenue. That is temporary. The prevalent idea that she governs a contented and well-employed people is no longer held. To a great extent Germany has followed the precedents of older industrial countries, and she now finds herself in a condition familiar to all students of economic history. Her industrial methods and her present system have gradually produced a large volume of superfluous labor; and now the hum of her machinery is not quite so constant, the presence of this superfluous labor becomes all too plain. The German Emperor is credited with dreaming nightmares about the growth of Socialism in his Empire. Politics at that end of the scale take on a much more violent shape under the repressive German system than they do in this freer atmosphere; and I believe Germany is now on the verge of realising that great changes are necessary in her social system if she is to escape the nemesis of the artificial system that has served her hitherto.

FIRST BANK IN ENGLAND.

The first modern bank in England was established in London about 1663 by Francis Child, who died two centuries ago, October 4, 1713. In ancient Greece, Rome and Babylon there were banks similar to present day institutions. Banking reappeared first in Italy upon the revival of civilization, the Lombard Jews establishing banks in that country as early as the ninth century. The business of banking spread from Florence over Italy and to France and Holland. The mint in the Tower of London was the depository for the cash of London merchants until Charles I. seized the money as a loan. The traders then began to lodge their money with the goldsmiths in Lombard Street. Francis Child was one of those, and he found the business so profitable that he determined to devote his entire time to banking. He visited Holland, where several banks had been established for some time, and studied the methods in vogue there, applying them to his own transactions. Within a few years he had many competitors, and Lombard Street abounded in banks. The first run on the London bankers occurred in 1667. The Bank of England was founded in 1694.

DULLEST DAY IN 16 YEARS.

Total sales for the one day last week in Wall Street reached only 57,274 shares, the smallest for any five-hour session in 16 years, or at least since 1897. Only two days like it were on July 11th of this year, when dealings were 63,781 shares, and on March 10th, 1904, when the turnover amounted to 69,800 shares.

FORTUNES WOVEN OUT OF THREAD.

The death of Mr. Peter Coats, one of the directors of the firm of J. & P. Coats, Limited, of Paisley, Scotland, which controls the thread trade of Great Britain, has drawn attention to a great industrial undertaking whose progress is one of the most romantic in the annals of commerce. It is the story of a great industry founded by one man as a small and purely private speculation, and then developed by his sons and grandsons until it has become the largest and most powerful of its kind in the Empire.

The founder of the firm was Mr. James Coats, who has been interested in the thread industry in 1824, and who in his native town, Paisley, in a factory about sixty feet in length, and where the motive power was obtained from a single 12-horse-power engine. This Mr. Coats was grandfather of the late Sir James Coats, who died in January last, at the age of 78, and also of Sir Thomas Glen Coats.

By degrees the business was enlarged until its Paisley works alone covered an area of over a hundred acres, and great branch establishments have been opened in the United States and in many European countries.

The amalgamation of J. & P. Coats, of the Ferguslie Mills, Paisley; Clark, of the Anchor Mills, Paisley; Jonas Brook & Brothers, and James Chadwick & Brothers, was one of the most successful in the history of such movements.

The dividends paid have been huge, as, for example, in 1897, 20 per cent.; 1898, 30 per cent.; 1899, 30 per cent.; and a bonus of 10 per cent.; 1900, 30 per cent. and a bonus of 20 per cent. and so on.

Enormous fortunes have been amassed by the various members of the Coats family. Mr. James Coats, junior, who died in March, 1912, left an estate of the value of about \$10,000,000; Mr. Archibald Coats, a former chairman of the firm who died in May 1912, left an estate valued at \$7,500,000; and the late Sir James Coats, Bart., of Auchendrane, Ayrshire, left an estate of about \$10,000,000.

EFFECT OF TARIFF CHANGE.

The Wilson-Underwood Tariff Bill, so far as the produce of the soil is concerned, is beginning to make its effects very manifest in Canadian exports to the United States. Exports of Canadian products, natural and manufactured, to that country alone for the month of October, were nearly two million dollars over the same month last year.

The figures are: Canadian exports to the United States in October, 1912, \$13,902,501, and in October, 1913, \$15,883,389.

Foreign products passing through Canada to the United States in October, 1912, amounted to \$1,974,719, and in October, 1913, \$1,515,653, thus showing a decrease in this traffic.

CAPITAL DEMAND LIGHTER.

The London Statist reports that capital issues show a decline for November of \$10,000,000 compared with last year and over \$50,000,000 in 1911. In the United States the Journal of Commerce estimates a decrease of \$53,000,000 for November just ended compared with last year.