

These corrected figures exceed the provisional official estimates given in a preliminary report, as far as the export is concerned, by 7,500,000 marks, and as far as the import is concerned by as much as 325,000,000 marks. These discrepancies are explained by the fact that in the official preliminary publication the provisional totals are, as far as the export is concerned, to a very limited extent only calculated upon the basis of the values established for the preceding year, but entirely so far as the imports are concerned. The steady growth of the German foreign trade may be exemplified by the fact that in 1880 the value of the import amounted to only 2,803,400,000 marks, and that of the export to only 2,023,400,000 marks. The two values together (foreign trade as such) amounted in 1880 to 5,700,000,000 marks, but for the year 1910 they amount to 16,400,000,000 marks. The rise in the three decades, therefore, amounts to almost 200 per cent.

We may expect to hear from Germany in the near future. Its competitors for Canada's import trade will do well to keep an eye on that enterprising and progressive nation.

COMBINE LEGISLATION.

It is somewhat of a coincidence that anti-combine legislation should have been levelled at the United Shoe Machinery Corporation almost simultaneously in Canada and in the United States. The first complaint brought under Canada's Combines Investigation Act late last year was against that corporation, which is a branch of the American concern, while last week the parent company was indicted for alleged violation of the Sherman anti-trust Act. The case against the company will probably be heard in the American courts during the winter, while we may expect every day to hear that the Canadian board of investigation has commenced its sittings. The United Shoe Company leases its machines, and shoe manufacturers who use them pay royalties, which, the company's president states, average less than 2-3 cents per pair of shoes in the manufacture of all types and grades. The highest royalty paid on the most expensive shoe is less than 5 1/4 cents per pair.

Mr. S. W. Winslow, the president of the United Shoe Machinery Company, has issued a lengthy statement to the public in defence of the company's operations. In view of the Canadian interest in the matter, it is printed elsewhere in this issue. He says that the object of the consolidation of the three companies of which the United Shoe Machinery Company was formed was not to destroy competition. "The purchase was to reduce the cost of production of the machines, to improve the quality of service furnished without increasing the cost to the shoe manufacturer, and to give to each manufacturer who might wish it an opportunity to get from a single company under these improved conditions such of these machines as he might need in that department of his factory in which soles and heels are attached to uppers—the machines in what is known as the bottoming-room."

Speaking of the beneficial results of the consolidation and the company methods, both to the shoe manufacturer and the consumer, these have been manifest, he adds, and continues: "By leasing machines to all manufacturers, large and small, on the same terms the company enables the small manufacturer to have a credit with every leather dealer, previously entirely unknown; to establish himself in business, and continue business without tying up a large and perhaps a prohibitive amount of capital in his machinery, conscious that he is under no disadvantage in competing with the large manufacturer, who perhaps might feel better able to tie

up a portion of his capital in costly machinery, subject to more rapid depreciation than the machinery employed in any other large industry."

The Canadian board of investigation may conduct their enquiry without undue haste. It should prove an easier matter for Canada to deal with the complaint against the branch company after the United States has dealt with the indictment against the parent company.

OF THE LONDON MARKET.

What is the condition of the London market in view of contemplated Canadian flotations there? The answer appears to be one of little encouragement. The best authorities overseas speak of a lengthy crisis, which becomes more perplexing as it unfolds. The situation, at first purely financial, was regarded as a natural reaction from over-speculation. With the Morocco controversy there entered the international element, followed by a succession of serious strikes and uncertainty at many points in continental Europe.

While these causes have aggravated the situation, the primary cause has, perhaps, the greatest meaning for Canada. The origin of the unsettled and unsatisfactory financial state in London, seems to have been in the over-production of new securities and the artificial inflation of old ones. There is a warning therein for Canadian financiers and promoters. Our security issues being prepared for the London market should be only of the best type, and at present as few as possible. That these facts are recognized is apparent by the failure of the city of Montreal to receive any bids from financial houses for its \$7,000,000 worth of bonds. To maintain our credit in London and to prevent sacrifices, considerable caution is necessary on our part.

SMALL CHANGE.

That Toronto wholesale merchants have confidence in Northern Ontario is evident from the attitude they have taken regarding the business failures which resulted from the recent Porcupine fire. Almost all the storekeepers who were forced to assign on account of the conflagration were allowed a cash balance and given sufficient credit to re-establish their businesses.

* * * *

There is no longer possibility of the Canadian four dollar bill being mistaken for an one dollar bill as the design has been improved. On the new bill the word "four" has been printed in large type across the top in both corners, while on the back the same change is duplicated, a word being printed across the figure 4 at both ends of the bill. The Lord and Lady Minto series is being used on these bills.

* * * *

Many stories are being circulated as a result of the legislative attack upon the trusts of the United States. A New York paper says it is understood that the United States Steel Corporation, fearing further action against it on the part of the government, will dissolve the trust as it now exists, and come to Canada, where a new company will take out a charter and become a holding company under the Canadian law of the various divisions of the trust in the United States. The despatch adds that if they can get the legislation, or even the charter under the general act, which they desire in Canada, other trusts will follow their example. We scarcely dare to speculate upon the change likely to be made in our economic geography should United States combines find a haven in Canadian charters.