

# The Chronicle

## Banking, Insurance and Finance

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### THE GENERAL FINANCIAL SITUATION.

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happens in this respect the business centres will see to it that they do not lose the advantage now gained.

While there are numerous problems of great importance at present before the Government for solution, it may be said that none is of greater moment than the appointment of the new Finance Minister in succession to Sir Thomas White, whose resignation is a matter for unfeigned regret. Enormous as have been the financial tasks with which the retiring Minister has had to grapple, they do not transcend in magnitude the problems with which his successor will be faced during the next two or three critical years. The revision of the tariff, the various problems of taxation, the domestic and other financing which will have to be arranged for by loan issues, and half a dozen other first-class problems, will call for administrative and executive ability of no mean order. Not the least of the new Minister's tasks will be to discriminate between a policy of parsimony and one of true economy, to restrict relentlessly useless expenditures, to encourage wisely useful ones. The best that the business community can hope is that the new appointee to the office will be one who will be able to secure the confidence and esteem in the same high degree that Sir Thomas White enjoys. The retiring Minister, no doubt, feels amply repaid by that confidence and esteem, and by the sense of national duty admirably done, for the personal financial sacrifices which he has undoubtedly made during his eight years' term of office.

### CANADIAN FINANCIERS AND BANKERS ASKED TO ACT.

That Canadian banks and financial interests should now undertake to finance those European countries which have heavy reconstruction problems, and the Canadian public should give whole-hearted support to this new enterprise, is the message given by Lloyd Harris, chairman of the Canadian Mission in London, on his departure for England at the close of his six weeks' visit.

"I have had a strenuous time," he said in an interview, "in which I have been more and more convinced that our public requires educating in the

tremendous power of trade with Europe. I am not in favor of granting further Government credits, as I think our banking and financial interests with Government co operation could do the work more more efficiently. These have the machinery and need only employ it.

"I believe a central organization could be formed which would make the necessary advances. They would take in return the securities from foreign Governments and in this way the public could participate. Such a method of procedure would have the direct effect of stimulating exports through the natural interest which would be aroused, and, secondly, through interesting our producers to markets which our banks had extended credits.

"Such a union of banking and financial interests is being formed on a huge scale in the United States. I consider," said Mr. Harris, "that a capital of \$300,000,000, if raised in this manner in Canada, would enable us to do trade up to perhaps five times this amount, if it was used as a kind of circulating credit. Some of the European countries are bare of the necessaries of life and must have credit. It is for the bankers, producers and manufacturers to get together.

"There are other things which Canada must do, especially the keeping up of the wartime standard, if possible, in exports of raw material and foodstuffs, but I want to impress on the Canadian people the importance of non-Government credit. It is, I believe, the most urgent thing to be taken in hand if we are to retain and extend our facilities for international trade, on which the future prosperity must largely depend."

Canadian manufacturers intend to make a strong bid for the much talked of Balkan trade, which those who are acquainted with that part of the world say is bound to come with the after-the-war expansion. The endeavours of Lloyd-Harris, of the Canadian Trade Mission, to interest Canadian business men has apparently borne fruit, for it is announced at the headquarters of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association that products of industrial Canada will be placed on exhibit at the fair at Athens, which commences on October 13. Owing to the great distance the exhibits will not be large, but will be so selected as to give the best impression and secure the introduction of Canadian goods into that market.

### BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA NEW DIRECTORS.

At a special general meeting of the Bank of Nova Scotia held in Halifax on July 8th, the directors of the former bank of Ottawa were added to the Nova Scotia board. These are: Hon. George Bryson, Fort Coulonge, Que.; John B. Fraser, Ottawa, Ont.; Fussell Blackburn, Ottawa; Sir George Burn, Ottawa; Sir Henry K. Egan, Ottawa; Alexander Maclaren, Buckingham; Hon. Sir George H. Perley, London.