FINANCIAL GOSSIP

In April, the Canadian banks opened 28 branches and closed three. Of the new branches, eleven were in Quebec and eight in Ontario. Bank branches now number 2,968, of which 2,889 are in Canada.

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The Home Bank of Canada will open a temporary branch office at 1157 Yonge Street, Toronto, just north of the C.P.R. tracks. The Bank has purchased the property opposite the location to be occupied as a temporary branch and will erect a new building there this summer.

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It is understood that negotiations have been practically concluded this week for the purchase of the Diamond Flint Glass Company and two other glass companies by an important group of Montreal interests, and within a few days a definite announcement will probably be made of reorganization on a new financial basis, under the title of the Canada Glass Corporation, Ltd.

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Of nine recent large new issues in the London market aggregating altogether $135,840,000, the public has only taken before the closing of the lists some $13,000,000. It is said that the public is getting into the habit of waiting for these new issues until they are quoted at a discount on the issue price and then quietly picking them up. So that in the cases of some of these issues, failures are more apparent than real.

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The unsatisfactory feature concerning Dominion Steel Corporation is that throughout its history there has been an almost unbroken succession of promises of better things for the future, which better things do not yet appear to have developed to a sufficient extent to place the iron and steel department on a dividend earning basis irrespective of earnings from outside sources.—*J. C. Mackintosh & Co.*

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A circular letter sent to shareholders of Brazilian Traction by the Company says that the increased earnings which are anticipated as a result of the completion of the works now under construction will greatly exceed the amount required to pay the dividend on the preference shares to be issued. Without taking these increased earnings into account, the circular continues, the income of the company available for dividends for the present year should be at least £1,800,000, or about $8,750,000, which will be about 8¾ per cent. on the common stock.

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Goodwins, Limited, which operates a big Montreal retail store, reported at the annual meeting this week earnings after deduction of bond interest and allowance for depreciation to be equal to over 12 per cent. on the $1,250,000 preferred stock and the surplus available for the $1,750,000 common to be about 3½ per cent. With the $60,138 carried forward out of the year's operations to the credit of surplus profits that account is now raised to $289,657, a sum equal to about 16 per cent. on the common stock. Net sales for the year showed an increase of 25 p.c. The board of directors was re-elected without change. Rumours had been current of differences which might result in a shake-up, but it is understood these were adjusted prior to the meeting.

The Census office reports that the condition of fall wheat on April 30, was in Ontario 83.4 per cent. and in Alberta 76 per cent. of a standard representing the promise of a full crop, the corresponding percentages on the same date last year being 71.2 for Ontario and 76.8 for Alberta. For all Canada the condition on April 30 of this year was 82 per cent. of the standard representing the promise of a full crop, or 101 per cent. of the average yield of the past four years. Last year at the same date the corresponding figures were only 72.6 per cent. of the full crop standard and 87 per cent. of the average of the three previous years. The fall wheat area is estimated at 825,000 acres excluding that winter killed.

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Spring seeding, the same authority states, has made good progress throughout the greater part of Canada, and was much further advanced at the end of April than it was on the same date last year. In the Maritime provinces seeding does not begin until May, but the weather was favourable and the indications were for an early spring. In Quebec there was also the prospect of an early season and about 12 per cent of the total seeding was completed by April 30. In Ontario conditions were more variable, but 40 per cent. of the total seeding was reported as finished. In Manitoba and Saskatchewan over 50 per cent. and in Alberta about 75 per cent. of spring wheat had been sown during the favourable weather of April. In Saskatchewan there is an apparent tendency to sow less wheat and devote more attention to dairying and mixed farming.

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The board of the National Drug & Chemical Company have decided to call a special general meeting of the shareholders on June 3rd, to sanction a by-law increasing the capital stock by $2,000,000, divided into 200,000 six per cent. cumulative first preference shares of £1 each, equal to $973,333, and 10,000 seven per cent. preference shares of $100 each. The intention is to offer the first preference shares in England (where all of the present first preference shares are held) some time in June, at a price equivalent to 105.

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The Company's financial report for the year ended January 31st last, showed net trading profits of $292,509, this figure being arrived at after all trade expenses, salaries to directors and officers, interest on bank advances and interest on real estate mortgages had been paid, and provision made for bad debts. Surplus profits in the past year after payment of preferred stock dividends and writing down were equal to about 2.4 per cent. on the outstanding common stock of $1,835,700. Net trading profits have practically doubled in four years.