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# MONEY AND MAGNATES



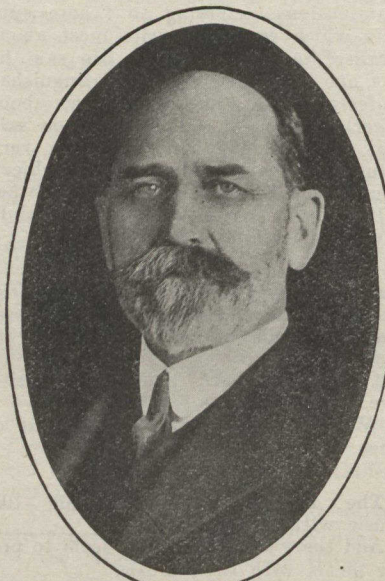
## Wholesale Building

JUDGED by statistics relating to building permits, Canada is progressing in spite of tight money markets. But it is not the largest cities which show the most pronounced increases. For the first four months of 1913, Peterboro heads the list. It shows an increase of three hundred and sixty-seven per cent., as compared with the same period of 1912. London follows with one hundred and twenty; then comes Kingston, ninety-two, and Toronto, forty-two.

So that building is going on, and that very extensively. You cannot go down any leading street in the cities of Canada without seeing scaffolding, and preparation for construction. And the building permits of a city are a reliable test of its prosperity. But there is one class of building that is being neglected. Most of our cities are crying out for houses. Land is continually changing hands, but the people who buy neglect to build. Several of our rapidly-growing cities are finding this lack of homes a really serious question. From Port Arthur there comes the report that so pressing is the need for homes for the incoming population that the city council is discussing a bonus to intending builders to relieve the pressure. It is estimated that five hundred houses could be let or sold immediately. It is good to keep on building manufacturing, warehouses and offices, but what about the housing of the workmen?

## Sir William is Back

SIR WILLIAM MACKENZIE returned last week from Europe. And of course he didn't come back empty-handed. It didn't matter that war was raging in Europe or that England and the English were in daily fear of labour running riot. Sir William went for money to finance the construction of the C. N. R., and Sir William returned with the money—"ample funds for some time to come," as he put it.



SIR WM. MACKENZIE  
President C.N.R.

Just how much money he did get isn't known. Sir William won't say, but since the C. N. R. doesn't dabble in small amounts, the funds secured doubtless total several million dollars.

Several announcements are made. For obvious reasons the consolidation of the various subsidiary companies controlled by the C. N. R. people will be an established fact very soon. Such a move will simplify financing and systematize the operating of a railroad whose mileage is practically seven thousand.

There is to be a fleet on the Pacific. Already the C. N. boats are plying the Atlantic and the Great Lakes. In the recent negotiations with Vancouver for the False Creek proposed terminals, the Company promised to establish a fleet on the Pacific within eight years.

Sir William defines his attitude anent the proposal that Toronto take over the street railway. The T. E. L. must be taken over, too. "Both or none!" says Sir William. His offer is the sale of the railway and the Electric Light Company at \$160 per share for the former, and \$135 for the latter, plus the extra amount expended by the companies on the properties. The Street Railway, Sir William points out, makes six million dollars per year. He thinks it would pay Toronto to take it over together with the Toronto Electric Light Co. He says: "It is a matter of indifference to me whether the city purchases the properties or not. It may be that Toronto will have an experience similar to that of Winnipeg. In that case we offered the street railway to the city at \$250 per share. They turned down the offer. Later the stock advanced to \$280. The capitalization was then doubled, and to-day if Winnipeg wanted to purchase the property she would have to pay \$3,000,000 more than the price at which it was first offered."

## Encouraging Grain Statistics

NINETY-TWO per cent. of last year's wheat crop in Canada or 183,611,000 bushels out of the total estimated production of 199,236,000 bushels proved to be of merchantable quality. Taking the returns for each province, it is found that in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta the percentage was 93. The bulk of the wheat is, of course, produced in the West. The Maritime Provinces average about 85 per cent. and Ontario 83. It is estimated that about forty-four million bushels remained in the hands of the farmers on March 31st, as compared with fifty-eight million bushels of the 1911 crop remaining in the hands of the farmers on March 31st, 1912. The percentage for 1911-1912 was 27; for 1912-1913, it was only 22.

The returns in connection with the oats crop are also encouraging. The crop, which yielded in all 361,733,000 bushels, was of merchantable quality to the extent of 91 per cent., while the quantity remaining in the hands of the farmers was 44.2 per cent. Last year's figures were: 89 per cent. merchantable, representing 310,074,000 bushels, and 44.1 per cent. left in the hands of the farmers.

Barley shows a very slight decrease in the percentage of merchantable produce. This year, of 44,014,000 bushels, the total crop, 38,299,000 bushels, or 87 per cent., were merchantable. Thirty-five per cent. remained in the hands

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