MONETARY ARRANGEMENTS OF WESTERN CITIES

Alberta's Premier Talks of Financial Situation—Western Development

Monetary Times Office,
Winnipeg, January 15th, 1913.

Hon. A. L. Sifton, Premier of Alberta, stayed at Winnipeg for two days this week on his way back from England, where he spent some weeks completing arrangements in connection with the new provincial loans. He was accompanied to the old country by the Hon. Malcolm McKenzie, provincial treasurer.

Interviewed in Winnipeg as to his trip Premier Sifton said "My trip to England was wholly one of business. The chief work was the placing of bonds to the amount of a million pounds, which were required for the extension of the telephone system of the province, and for the building of public roads. The funds were, in fact, secured on short term loans during last year, and a considerable portion spent. The object on the present trip was to sell long term bonds to replace these short-term loans.

"The price at which the bonds were sold could not have been obtained for several weeks prior to the day of sale, and not at any time up to the date of our leaving London. The four per cent. bonds were sold at 97, a little over 4 per cent. The news of the war was good that day. The brokers were optimistic. They made an offer of 97, and it was accepted."

Mr. Sifton added that during a period when the European war was at its worst, the money market in London was exceedingly tight. England had paid a shade over four per cent., for money, and could not have got it at this price had it not been for the fact that Japan had funds on deposit, which were available on call. At the same time Austria had offered seven per cent., and had borrowed considerable sums in New York at six and a half per cent.

Many Loans For London.

In addition to completing arrangements for the long term bonds, Mr. Sifton arranged for an extension of the loans in connection with the A. and G. W. matter. It was not the government's wish to secure a loan for a lengthy period in this case, and money was borrowed at five and three-quarters. With reference to this case, Mr. Sifton stated that it was anticipated that a decision would be given in February, the only real ground for this anticipation was that the court was to sit in February. The chancellor had stated when the case was presented that, as the issue was a constitutional one, great care would have to be taken in consideration.

Speaking of general financial matters, the premier stated that a very large number of Canadian loans would be put through in London during the next four or five months. Short-term notes had been issued by many municipalities, and more permanent arrangements were now to be made. The prospects were that the market would be easier and that money would be more readily available.

Canadian municipalities must, however, be prepared to pay more for money than they had paid in the past.

Prevailing Conditions in Western Cities.

Mr. Harold Wynne Trenholme, formerly of the Bank of Commerce, and son of Mr. Justice Trenholme, has been appointed manager of the Dominion Trust Company in Winnipeg. This company has a paid up capital of three millions and its headquarters are in Vancouver, where the annual meeting will be held in February. For its Winnipeg office it has bought the fine building of the Eastern Townships Bank on Main Street.

Edmonton wholesalers report both volume of trade and collections as showing very satisfactory increase, and conditions generally throughout Edmonton territory appear eminently satisfactory, as also do leading retailers. Owing to diversity of Central Alberta's resources, the unsatisfactory conditions regarding marketing and shipping of grain are not a serious factor.

Edmonton's Expenditure.

While Edmonton authorities have decided to pursue a conservative course in regard to civic improvements and extension of public utilities, the city commissioners have presented for approval of the council estimates covering expenditures on capital accounts aggregating $8,597,450. This expenditure is deemed by the commissioners to be demanded to meet the expanding requirements incidental to the city's rapid growth. Authorization is asked for capital expenditures under the various departments as follows:—

Health: Equipment	$ 800
Fire: Equipment and building	148,574
Telephone: Building, equipment and extensions	923,640
Stores and works: Buildings and machinery	131,381
Engineering: Paving, sidewalks, boulevarding, sewers, etc.	4,232,310
Electric light: Extensions and equipment	209,078
Police: equipment	47,842
Power plant: Additional equipment ($430,155)	430,155
Street railway: Buildings, extensions, cars and equipment	1,659,186
Parks	218,857
Gas: Distribution system	186,003
Water system: Extensions	409,124

43 carloads of rails and similar material have arrived for the Interurban Electric Railway, and the company claim that the line to St. Albert will be in operation in May next.

Laying of steel is proceeding on the Edmonton, Dunvegan & British Columbia Railway, and steel is now 26 miles out. The company expect to have steel laid on the entire 80 miles graded by 1st March.

Six by-laws voted on by the ratepayers of Fort William were carried. The two industrial by-laws; namely, the Maritime Nail Company, Limited, and the Canadian Steel Foundries, Limited, having been carried, means two additional manufacturing industries, and the employment of 450 men.

RAILROAD EARNINGS.

The following are the railroad earnings for the week ended January 7th:—

	1913.	1912.	Increase or decrease.
Canadian Pacific	$2,140,000	$1,602,000	+ $538,000
Grand Trunk	850,889	735,888	+ 115,001
Canadian Northern	341,500	289,200	+ 52,300
Temiskaming & Northern Ontario	26,561	26,622	— 61

AT NIAGARA FALLS

The year 1912 was a good one at Niagara Falls, Ont. Possibly $300,000 worth of residential building and fully $600,000 of factory buildings, mostly additions to present factories, were erected. Six new industries were located there during the year, and prospects for 1913 are exceptionally bright. In addition, the three great power development companies operating there have expended many millions in increasing their plants.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

The following annual meetings will be held during the next two weeks:—

Company.	Time.	Place.
Jan. 21—Monarch Life Assurance	4 p.m.	Winnipeg
" 21—Ontario Power	11 a.m.	Niagara Falls
" 21—Coleman Development	3 p.m.	Haileybury
" 21—Calumet Cobalt Mining	4 p.m.	Haileybury
" 22—Ramsay E. Sinclair, Ltd.	2 p.m.	Toronto
" 22—Nepigon Mining Lands	10 a.m.	Windsor
" 22—Continental Life Ins.	2.30 p.m.	Toronto
" 23—Guarantee of North America	4 p.m.	Montreal
" 27—Metropolitan Bank	noon	Toronto
" 27—Hamilton, Grimsby, and Beamsville Electric Ry.	3 p.m.	Hamilton
" 27—Sincennes—McNaughten Line	11 a.m.	Montreal
" 28—Confederation Life Ass'n.	2.30 p.m.	Toronto
" 29—Canada Starch Co.	noon	Montreal

SEVEN WAYS TO REDUCE THE COST OF LIVING

Seven ways to reduce the cost of living have been discovered by Dean Frank W. Blackmar, of the University of Kansas. They are:—

Let the government check the decline in the purchasing power of gold by taking, automatically, seigniorage of the bullion that is behind the dollar, thus leaving the value of the dollar stable and allowing the weight to vary with the rise and fall of average prices.

Induce more people to engage in the production of raw material.

Introduce scientific intensive agriculture in order to double production per acre.

Revise the tariff by scientific treatment.

Prevent as far as possible, organizations from advancing prices arbitrarily, placing a maximum limit upon prices if necessary.

Introduce simpler and less expensive methods of bringing the commodity to the consumer.

Educate people in the principles and habits of true economy, thus doing away with extravagance and waste.