

troubles will be experienced. All the European centres showed nervousness over the news of the riots in Brazil, and all of them were a little perturbed over the charges of the United States Interstate Commerce Commission to the effect that the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company had falsified its revenue accounts to the extent of \$5,000,000 a few years ago. With reference to the Brazilian situation a dispatch from London to New York states that the action of the foreign exchange market in Brazil indicate a large movement of gold from that country to London.

NEW YORK POSITION.

The New York money market has been steady during the week. Call loans are $1\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 p.c.; sixty day loans 3 p.c.; ninety days, $3\frac{1}{4}$ p.c.; and six months $3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. The Saturday bank statement was again unfavorable from the stock market point of view. All clearing house institutions (banks and trust companies) had to report a loss of \$9,100,000 in surplus reserve—mainly due to expansion of \$27,488,000 in their loans. Cash holdings at the same time showed reduction of \$4,200,000. From \$40,068,000 on February 7th, the surplus reserves have fallen to \$17,676,000. The banks taken by themselves also had a heavy loss of surplus to report. Their loan expansion amounted to \$23,230,000 and their cash loss was \$4,100,000—the net result being a decline of \$8,814,000 in surplus.

SITUATION SLOWLY IMPROVING.

Notwithstanding the pessimism manifested in Wall Street early in the week, several occurrences have indicated that the business situation is slowly improving. The fortnightly statement of idle cars showed another important decrease; and the United States Steel Corporation's report on unfilled tonnage showed that the orders on hand to be executed had increased from 4,614,000 tons on 1st February, to 5,026,000 tons on 1st March—the increase being 412,000 tons. On the other hand this good news was offset to a certain extent by knowledge of the onerous terms to which certain railways had to submit in new financing. This latter unfavorable development, of course, is largely a result of the Interstate Commerce Commission's attitude and of the government's attacks on Big Business.

Mr. F. Norie-Miller, general manager of the General Accident of Perth, Scotland, is expected to arrive on this side at the close of the week.

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Mr. Angus W. Mishaw has succeeded to the general agency for Eastern Washington of the Canada Life, with headquarters in Spokane, succeeding Mr. Neil Flenner, who has taken up life insurance work in Western Canada. Mr. Flenner was formerly a good producer in the Illinois and Southern Ohio fields.

BANK PENSIONS AND PREMISES.

With the publication of the tables on page 307 THE CHRONICLE's record of appropriations by the chartered banks for pension funds and for writing down premises accounts now covers a period of thirteen years in case of the former and a period of eleven years in case of the latter.

The number of banks making appropriations for pension funds in 1913 is seventeen as against eighteen in 1912; but the total amount appropriated is \$34,333 in excess of the appropriations of 1912. The reduction in number of banks appropriating for the purpose occurs owing to the change of fiscal year by the Merchants Bank. The annual appropriation by the Merchants is \$50,000; but, as the 1913 report of earnings covered five months only, the matter was left over to the next year-end.

GROWTH OF PENSION FUNDS.

In preceding articles on this subject it has been explained how the Canadian banks, one after the other, have instituted pension funds and gradually enlarged them. Twelve years ago there were only six banks reporting appropriations for pension funds—the total of their appropriations being \$59,743. Of course, the rapid growth of the banking staffs constitutes the principal reason for the spread of the pension fund idea. Their employees got so numerous that the banks were obliged to deal with the matter of pensions in a systematic manner. At the same time we believe that THE CHRONICLE can properly claim some credit for accelerating the movement among the banks to provide pension funds. The publication year after year of the names of the banks making appropriations and the amounts thereof, would serve to bring the matter of the pensions vividly before the general managers and directors of banks which had not yet inaugurated funds; and perhaps it would have some effect in stirring them up to emulate the others which had already taken action.

The total amount appropriated by all banks in 13 years—\$2,758,316—represents an average of \$210,000 per year. But in 1913 the total amount was more than double the average for the whole period.

WRITING OFF PREMISES A VAST TOTAL.

The appropriations for writing down premises account, too, have reached a vast total. In the past eleven years an aggregate of over \$15,000,000 of current earnings has been so applied. The yearly allocations, as in the case of the pension funds, have increased enormously—in 1913 the total was more than four times the total for 1903.

It should not be forgotten that in one sense these appropriations for writing down premises account represent additions to the reserves. The reserves thus created are not visible, as are the rest and profit and loss balance, but they exist nevertheless and serve to strengthen the position of the banks and of their stockholders quite materially. And in the case of the

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