

assistance to the people of the country. The Dominion Government's plan miscarried, to some extent at least, by reason of the fact that the banks generally did not carry out the wishes of the Government, but rather were intent on strengthening their own position at the expense, both of the Government and the people. The Government, however, still has the option as to what method it will use of extending assistance to the people, and it can very easily revoke the powers granted to the banks and instead undertake some means of extending direct State aid, to furnish credit and guarantee security until normal conditions are restored.

The Government of Great Britain has taken just that step. In Britain it was not necessary or desirable to use the banks for the purpose, and so it was done direct. In Canada the attempt has been made to use the banks, and we do not believe there is anyone, save the bankers themselves, who will say the attempt has been successful.

Our Minister of Finance should assume the same leadership of the nation's financing as did Lloyd George and McAdoo and tell the banks what they must do. He may not have the direct jurisdiction, but he has the power to do it. Be a McAdoo and be a Lloyd George.

Coming back more specifically to the bank situation in Canada, as illustrated by the bank statement up to the end of August, we find that the call loans outside of Canada were reduced by something like \$29,000,000 in that month, and this covers about the last ten days of the month and includes the time when the Stock Exchange closed down in New York. There was therefore left about \$100,000,000 of Canadian money on call loans on Sept. 1, and the public will patiently wait to hear how much of this \$100,000,000 has been collected during the present month. There is no doubt that the banks are trying to get it in, and they told the Canadian public they could get it in at any time they called it. As money is badly needed in Canada at the present moment, it is to be hoped that most of the \$100,000,000 is now in hand, especially as it is made up of the savings of the Canadian people, and would be most efficient at this moment in helping along the needs of business as felt by our manufacturers, our farmers and those of the general public who are regular customers of the Canadian banks.

The figures also show an increased issue of bank notes to the extent of \$20,000,000, and this amount would raise the total issue to about the legal limit and make no entrenchment on the excess issue, as authorized by Parliament. It may be, however, that the September returns will show that the banks have availed themselves somewhat of the excess issue.