AUSTRALIA'S DOMESTIC LOAN

Applications for Nearly Three Times Required Amount—Bondholders Pay the Third Instalment To-day

The flotation of a domestic loan in Canada, as announced by finance minister White last week, has been a topic of considerable interest among investors, bankers and brokers.

Australia has forestalled this country in the placing of a domestic loan, the third instalment of which is payable to-day. Although only $25,000,000 was sought, the subscriptions exceeded $65,000,000. The loan bears 4½ per cent. interest and matures in 1925.

The prospectus states that the loan is to be utilized by the Commonwealth for war purposes only, and will take the form either of inscribed stock or treasury bonds at the option of the subscriber.

Free of Stamp Duty.

All bonds and all transfers of inscribed stock will be free of Commonwealth and state stamp duty, and interest will be free of Commonwealth and state income tax. Bonds and inscribed stock will be accepted at par in payment of probate and succession duty due to the Commonwealth. The issue is an investment authorized by the trustees acts of the several states, and trustees may invest therein notwithstanding that the price may at the time of investment be above or below the redemption value of par.

The bonds will be issued in denominations of $50, $500, $2,500 and $5,000, and will be payable to bearer, or stock will be inscribed in amounts of $500 or any multiple thereof. The loan will be repaid at par at the offices of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth or Hobart, on December 15th, 1925. Interest on bonds and stock will be paid half-yearly on June 15th and December 15th. A full half-year's interest will be paid on December 15th, 1915.

Charge on Revenue.

The above loan is authorized under act of parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, and both capital and interest will be a charge upon the consolidated revenue of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia was authorized on behalf of the treasurer of the Commonwealth of Australia to receive applications for the loan. The applications, which had to be accompanied by a deposit of $50 per cent., were received at all branches of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, or could be forwarded through the medium of head offices and branches of any bank or any recognized stockbroker or any post office where money order business is conducted.

Instalments are payable as follow: $50 per cent. on application; $75 per cent. on Wednesday, September 15th, 1915; $100 per cent. on Friday, October 15th, 1915; $125 per cent. on Monday, November 15th, 1915; $150 per cent. on Tuesday, November 30th, 1915. Any or all of the instalments may be prepaid. In case of default in the payment of any instalment at its due date, the deposit and instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

May be Exchanged for Bonds.

The stock will be inscribed in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth inscribed stock act, 1911-15, and inscription books of the loan will be kept at the Commonwealth treasury, where all transfers of stock will be made. Provisional receipts were issued on payment of $50 per cent. on application, and scrip certificates to bearer with coupon attached for interest payable on December 15th, 1915, will be issued in exchange for such provisional receipts.

As soon as these scrip certificates have been paid in full, and payment indorsed accordingly, they may be exchanged for bonds to bearer (as soon as the latter can be prepared), or may be converted into inscribed stock in denominations of $500 or any multiple thereof. Holders of inscribed stock will have the right to convert into bonds and holders of bonds will have the right to convert into inscribed stock at any time on application in writing to the Commonwealth treasury, Melbourne, or any branch of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Recognized stockbrokers were allowed a commission of $1.25 per $500 on allotments made in respect of applications received from them.

The largest subscriber to the loan was the Mutual Life and Citizens Assurance Company, of Sydney, Australia, which subscribed £1,000,000. The company has a Canadian office at Montreal.

TORONTO'S FIRE LOSSES

Acting Fire Chief Smith's report for the week ended October 12th, shows Toronto's fire losses were:—

October 4—Dwelling of Wm. Graham, 1326 Bloor Street West, owned by Goulding and Company. Cause, overheated stove pipes. Loss, $25.

October 7—Dwelling of Harry Landan, 336 Wilton Avenue. Cause, pot of tar on stove became ignited. Loss, contents, $10; building, $25.

October 10—Building of Slaters Lunch, 175 Bathurst Street, owned by Islington Estate. Cause unknown. Loss, contents, $500; building, $500.

October 11—Store and dwelling of Alex. Levinsky, 45 Wolseley Street, owned by M. Wolfe. Cause unknown. Loss, contents, $300; building, $200; automobile of Alex. Larkin. Cause unknown. Loss, $1,200.

October 12—Store and dwelling of P. Wolgruch, 599 Queen Street West, owned by Franklin Brothers. Cause unknown. Loss, contents, $10; building, $50; shed of M. Falkner, 46 Belmont Street, owned by G. Chalkley. Cause unknown. Loss, $30; vacant shed, 48-50 Belmont Street, owned by W. H. Bevan; shed of G. Hollingsworth, 52 Belmont Street, owned by W. H. Bevan. Loss, $100; vacant dwelling, 26 O'Hara Avenue, owned by Mrs. C. Minns. Cause, boys with matches set fire to rubbish. Loss, $25.

FINANCE MINISTER'S PROPOSALS TO BRITAIN

Hon. W. T. White, minister of finance, confirmed at Ottawa, on Wednesday, a statement that he recently made in Toronto, that no domestic loan of such amount as $150,000,000 had been under consideration by the government. Any domestic loan will be for such moderate amount as conditions may warrant, and will not be brought on before the end of the year. At present the government has ample funds to meet all requirements.

Mr. White returned from New York on Wednesday. While in New York he discussed fully with Lord Reading and the British treasury representatives the problem of sterling exchange, and particularly certain proposals which the minister has put forward with the object of avoiding heavy loss in exchange to the Dominion government in transferring funds from London to meet our war expenditure here, and of assisting in stabilizing the sterling exchange situation. The question of financing orders placed in Canada for shells and other munitions was also discussed. The proposals made by the minister will go forward for consideration by the British treasury.

GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC'S OFFICERS

The adjourned annual meeting of the shareholders of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company was held at Montreal. Mr. E. J. Chamberlin, president, said that as the railway was nearing completion, construction work during the past year had been confined to accessory ballasting and bridging, principally on the mountain division, and no new extensions had been undertaken.

The directors and officers elected for the ensuing year are: Directors, Mr. A. W. Smithers, chairman; Sir Henry Mather Jackson, Bart.; Col. Frederick Firebrace, Messrs. George Von Chauvin, London, Wm. Molson Macpherson, Quebec, E. J. Chamberlin, E. B. Greenshields, Senator R. Dandurand Howard, G. Kelley, W. H. Biggar, K.C., J. E. Dalrymple, Frank Scott, W. H. Ardley, H. H. Safford, Montreal, J. R. Booth, Ottawa, Mr. Jules Hone being the government representative on the board. Officers, Mr. E. J. Chamberlin, president; Mr. M. Donaldson, vice-president and general manager; Mr. W. H. Biggar, K.C., vice-president; Mr. J. E. Dalrymple, vice-president; Mr. F. Scott, vice-president; Mr. Henry Phillips, secretary; Mr. Frank Scott, treasurer; Mr. W. H. Biggar, K.C., general counsel; Mr. W. H. Ardley, comptroller.