

in at the
000 invest-
\$125,000,-

treated by
atest actors
ine, while
of subject
ay.

of a wide
schools they
graphy and
ms of vari-
the moving
tly endow-
cast their
a big bond
a big issue
called to-
and show-
e possibili-
eely a field
ures. Their
rs presents

FORM IN

cal prefer-
ne struggle
opinion is
its and de-
on the
with Pre-
t is doubt-
ted reform
ertaken by
Among the
ish people
f the pow-
rance Mea-
e extension
ment pro-
he Reform
umstances,
emed suffi-
As it is,
nt social,
the coun-
the raising

into force
n the first
with the
, the work
nce of the
. Despite
which the
aking their
rious mea-
talize into
the social

conditions of the people of Great Britain. The work is made the more difficult because of the personnel of the parties comprising the Government. At the present time, the Government has 385 members, against 285 for the Opposition. The Government is composed of Liberals, Laborites and Irish Nationalists, which adds to the difficulties of the situation. The three parties are divided as follows:—Liberals 262, Laborites 39 and Irish Nationalists 84. In the by-elections held since the general election of 1910, the Unionists have gained thirteen seats, while they have reduced the Liberal majorities in many other constituencies. The success which has attended Premier Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George in their efforts is a striking tribute to their personality. Premier Asquith has shown himself to be an adroit and skilful leader. His holding together of the various sections which comprise the Government has been a remarkable piece of work. Lloyd George is bitterly hated by the Lords and the so-called "big-interests" and land owners, but he is a warm friend of the great mass of common people who believe in his efforts to better their condition. The outcome of the present session will be watched with unusual interest, not only by the Canadian people, but by all who are interested in social legislation.

EXPRESS COMPANY EARNINGS.

The express companies cannot expect very much sympathy from the public as a result of the inauguration of the parcel post. A statement just issued shows that the various express companies operating in the Dominion enjoyed a very profitable year during 1913. Gross receipts from operation in 1913 amounted to \$12,827,478 as compared with \$10,994,418 for the year 1912. The Dominion Express Company earned 38.8 per cent, the Canadian Northern Express Company 21.3 per cent, the Canadian Express Company 18.4 per cent, and the British American Express Company 10.4 per cent on their stock.

The above figures show that the express business is a very profitable one, the earnings in 1913 being almost \$2,000,000 greater than in 1912. When we take into consideration the fact that the capitalization of these companies is very small, while their earnings are very great, there is still less room for sympathy with them in their cry that they are about to be put out of business. The Canadian Express Company has a capitalization of \$1,705,200, all the stock being held in trust for the Grand Trunk Railway Company by certain directors of the latter company. This Express Company operates over 7,184 miles. The capital stock of the Dominion Express Company is \$2,000,000, upon which a dividend of 10 per cent is paid. This company operates over 15,430 miles on steam and electric railways, 1,236 by inland steam boats, 100 by stage lines and 16,590 by steamers on the Atlantic and Pacific. The Canadian Northern Express Company has an authorized capital of \$1,000,000, all of which is issued. During the year a dividend amounting to \$954,356 was declar-

ed, and which was transferred to the Canadian Northern Railway Express Co.—a separate organization from the Canadian Northern Express Company—holders of the capital stock of this company. The company operates over a mileage of 5,762 miles. When on \$4,805,200 of common stock outstanding there was realized during the year the sum of \$2,865,200 in cash, the express companies cannot claim that they are not earning good money. At the present time the tariff on parcel post is very little lower than that charged by the express companies, but the probabilities are that in a very short time the parcel post rates will be decreased as a result they will become keener competitors of the express companies.

Side Lights.

Sir William Macdonald, "Tobacco King" and philanthropist, was elected chancellor of McGill this week. Sir William has given millions to McGill, Macdonald College, Consolidated Rural Schools, Manual Training and kindred educational institutions, and deserves the honor conferred upon him by McGill.

Dr. J. W. Robertson, chairman of the Commission on Industrial Education in his lecture before the Canadian Club this week, told of some of the gifts of Sir William Macdonald. The Doctor and Sir William made a fine team—one furnished the ideas and the other financed them.

Howard Murray, vice-president of the Shawinigan Water & Power Company, and chairman of the Quebec Branch of the Manufacturers' Association, is keenly interested in Technical Education. His company has given a fully equipped Technical School to the town of Shawinigan Falls.

Mr. J. H. Plummer, of the Dominion Steel Corporation, is an example of the banker who has made good in Big Business. Before taking up his present onerous duties he held a prominent position in the Bank of Commerce.

Mr. W. E. Stavert, now head of the Spanish River Pulp and Paper Company, is another banker who has gone into commercial pursuits. Mr. Stavert has had considerable experience with dead and dying banks, the last one requiring his attention being the Ontario Bank.

Sir Edmund Walker does considerable outside work, in addition to his banking duties. In the past few days he has spoken before Canadian clubs on Increased Production, addressed the Toronto Y.M.C.A. on Banking and waited on the Toronto City Council, where he obtained a grant in aid of the Mendelssohn Choir's projected tour.

Mr. John Anderson, of Chase & Sanborn, coffee manufacturers, is a most enthusiastic curler. The first part of the paper consulted is the portion devoted to news of the "roarin'" game. After reading that he takes an interest in every-day ordinary matters.