

Editor's Page

By Contrast—The Dominion Trust Collapse

An Opportunity for the Heroic in Civil Life.

In writing of some "Businesses Worth While" in a magazine published in Vancouver which circulates to some extent in the other Canadian provinces, and has a considerable number of readers in Britain interested in Canada, and especially in Farthest West Canada, it might seem strange if no notice should be taken editorially or otherwise at this time, of a business which, after being conducted—or bolstered up—has collapsed in such a way as to bring distressing discredit to the community and the country.

If the first step towards betterment of bad conditions is to know the worst, the Vancouver daily papers and those authorising the publication of the official report are to be commended for the unsparing publicity given to the statement of the interim liquidator concerning the condition of the company so far as ascertained.

Some business men may question if it was necessary to publish so complete a report to others than those directly interested; but as the reflection of the company's failure falls upon the whole community, it is perhaps well that the facts should, as far as possible, be published unreservedly.

It is to be hoped that the Dominion Trust collapse will prove unique in the history of Western Canada. It is an outstanding illustration of the temptations in a new country to build business or character mainly on make-believe and audacious assurance; and a startling revelation of how far even staid and sedate business men of experience in one line or another may, once in a while, be simply led, or misled, when they should be "directing." The blow to the Board of Directors is perhaps second only to that falling on the trusting "depositors" in this concern, which was evidently upheld by a big frontispiece building and an unlimited amount of tall talk, and dare-devil dealing.

The unlimited opportunities of this fair land of Canada carry with them dangers and temptations. The farmer's boy, the grocer's clerk, and the coal carrier's assistant may, with little cash and large assurance, turn real estate dealers, "financial agents," or speculators, and become rich suddenly or soon. But stability in business as well as stability in character is usually of slow growth, influenced by inheritance. In business it often involves the readiness of some "capitalists"—in cash, enterprise, initiative, or ability, or in all together—to let their money or their minds work for considerable periods or even permanently for small cash returns.

Training is needed in every line of service, and in every "Business Worth While" something of an apprenticeship must be served. West-