

company at that date and I also call your attention to the fact that there were over eight millions of business in force at that time. To-day they are turning over about three and one-half millions to the Sun Life.

Offer of American Company.

At that date—namely, 23rd June, 1914, I placed before the board an offer that I had received from a responsible company which would re-insure all the company's business and leave about \$200,000 assets for the shareholders. To-day, the sale means a call upon the shareholders. I have only been manager in name since that date. A year ago, this month I placed before the directors a letter from a very responsible party representing an American company asking for option on the company's business and assets with cash consideration of \$125,000. The letter was ordered filed. In my statement of 18th of June, 1914, I recommended a change in the collection of the company's accounts. The collections were then in the hands of the secretary; this recommendation was not carried out and the secretary has since absconded.

In perusing my contract I would ask you to note that I was authorized to write business up to \$25,000,000; in fact, my salary was based on the amount of new business that I could secure and in drawing the president's and some of the directors' attention to our heavy reserve on this new business on several occasions, I was always assured that it was my business to get the business and they would take care of the finances. I believed that I was employed by people who would live up to their promises and I made the mistake in writing more business than the company could afford to carry, and when these parties, who had promised to take care of the company's finances, were called upon to do so they failed to respond.

In fairness to me I think that there should be some detractions or some explanations given to your readers in your next issue. I would afford your Mr. Goodall, as your representative here, the fullest opportunity of going into all of these matters and will furnish affidavits, not only my own affidavits, but the affidavits of other directors of the company, as to the truthfulness of the above statements.

Trusting that you will return me the documents that I am enclosing herewith after perusing same, I am,

Yours, etc.,

GEO. H. MINER.

704 Merchants Bank Building, Winnipeg,
March 1st, 1916.

[*The Monetary Times* is pleased to give publicity to the above communication from Mr. G. H. Miner, and to acknowledge the enclosures with it, in good order. At the same time, it must be pointed out, that it would be improper for *The Monetary Times* to take a part in the matters of dispute referred to above. We merely printed in our issue of February 25, as a matter of public interest, facts regarding the reinsurance agreement and statements made by Mr. T. D. Robinson, formerly president of the Prudential, of Winnipeg, to a meeting of shareholders in July last. We now publish, similarly as a matter of public interest, the foregoing letter of Mr. Miner.—The Editor, *The Monetary Times*.]

ONTARIO MAY SUE GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC

That the government is considering taking action in the courts against the Grand Trunk Pacific to enforce the contract in respect to running rights under which the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario was to receive \$300,000 annually, in addition to sums based upon maintenance, expenditure, etc., was a statement made by Hon. T. W. McGarry in the Ontario legislature this week.

"We are holding intact our rights under that agreement," he said, "and we are advised that we have a good case against the Grand Trunk Pacific. If they persist in that policy it will be part of the policy of the government to have the courts invoked in order that we may get from the Grand Trunk Pacific that which is justly our due."

Claims against shareholders of the Bank of Vancouver totalling \$1,118,000 have been filed with the supreme court by the solicitor for the liquidators.

LIVING COSTS ARE HIGHER

This is Partly Due to War—German Government Has Fixed Prices of Commodities

At the end of January the index number of commodities for Canada had reached a new high level, as will be seen from the table on page 48. It stood at 172, as compared with 162 for the preceding month and 139 for January, 1915. As a result the weekly budget of an average working man's family for food is now placed at \$8.28, or 31 cents per week more than it cost in January a year ago, states the department of labor in its return. The chief advances for the year were in lard, eggs, butter, cheese, sugar, tea, coffee and potatoes. Milk, bread and flour, have, however, shown a decrease compared with the figures of last year.

The increase in the cost of living in Canada is no exception of the rule all over the world.

Since War Started.

In Great Britain there was an advance of 5 per cent. during December, and the index number has arisen there to 118.4 as compared with 81.2 before the war. Altogether there has been an advance in prices since the war began of forty-six per cent.

In the United States the index number rose during January from 133 to 137.6.

In Germany the official returns show that the increase in the general level of food prices has been about 82 per cent. since July, 1914, although the figures for November show a decrease of 6.6 per cent., as compared with the previous month.

German Government Fixed Prices.

This is the first decrease in food prices registered since the outbreak of the war and is said to be due to the operation of recent government orders fixing prices for some of the more important foods at figures well below those locally current for these articles in an uncontrolled market.

The latest Austrian figures available show that the general level of prices is 117 per cent. above the prices current in July, 1914. The increases vary from 9 per cent. for sugar to 342 per cent. for lard.

ONTARIO LOANS AND CREDIT

Reviewing provincial borrowings of the past fiscal year, in the Ontario legislature on Tuesday, Hon. T. W. McGarry, provincial treasurer, stated that they had amounted to \$14,000,000. Of this \$6,000,000 was used to retire other loans, \$2,000,000 was borrowed against the war tax for patriotic use, \$3,000,000 went into the Hydro-Electric and the rest remained in the treasury and was deposited in banks in Toronto. At the end of the year the government had \$3,900,000 more cash on hand than the year before. Dealing with the terms secured in borrowing, the best any province or country had received, Mr. McGarry referred to the retiring of a \$3,000,000 issue of treasury bills at London. By going into the exchange market at the right moment he had been able to make for the province a profit of \$125,434, enough to pay the interest for the nine months the treasury bills had been out, pay all expenses and still leave \$10,000.

The work of the department of agriculture in increasing production in Ontario as a patriotic duty was referred to, the increased value of the wheat crop alone being \$7,000,000. The treasurer stated that the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway had shown net profits of \$256,000, of which \$250,000 had been turned over to the government to apply against interest payments.

In closing his budget speech on Tuesday, Mr. McGarry, provincial treasurer, quoting a recent article in *The Monetary Times*, emphasized the urgent need of the province maintaining the present high credit standard in the money markets, of keeping within its income, and of proceeding only with those capital expenditures that were necessary. There were expenditures that should be proceeded with, but if these were carefully considered there was no reason to think that the great financiers would discourage them. The winning of the war was the great object, and nothing should be done that would in the slightest degree weaken the striking force of the Empire.