

disfigured by the positivism which always destroys the best thoughts and proposals of an extremist. Why should Mr. Fyshe, towards the close of his article, affirm so positively that the condition of the country does not admit of an increase of business for our banks, and why should he refer to the "wasting competition which threatens to prove fatal to the banks and public alike" as suggesting amalgamation (much as it would improve the banking business in his city) as the only panacea, the sole chance of salvation? Surely he must realize that many of his readers will not need to glance at the Government statement of the condition of Canadian banks to recall that some of them (even in the little province of Nova Scotia) continue to grow and prosper regardless of the "wasting competition" which, according to Mr. Fyshe, has rendered profits "so infinitesimal that it would almost require the aid of a microscope to see them."

Is the condition of the country to-day to be its condition for all time to come? We know to the contrary.

Before closing this brief review of Mr. Fyshe's article and the thoughts it has engendered, I wish it to be understood that I do not view with any alarm the growth of corporations. I do not fear for the world any evil which we cannot eradicate resultant from the amalgamation of banks and the formation of big companies. Personally I would rather be a door keeper in the banking house of some leviathan institution in Montreal, with a good pension in prospective for my declining years, than dwell as a manager of a little money box in Queerboro'—providing the salary attached to the former position was in keeping with the size of the bank and the character of my door keeping.

But Mr. Fyshe has signally failed, in my opinion, to show that the growth of corporations betokens for competition the period of its old age. I am rather inclined to believe, on the contrary, that competition is only in its infancy; that the building up of big and necessarily rival companies will witness a war of rates such as will enable consumers to always preserve some decent chance of living. For Mr. Fyshe (again resorting to invective) has to admit that the present experience of the world with big corporations, owing to the expenses of management or