

The Monetary Times

Trade Review and Insurance Chronicle

Vol. 46—No. 16.

Toronto, Canada, April 22nd, 1911.

Ten Cents

The Monetary Times OF CANADA

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY THE MONETARY TIMES
PRINTING COMPANY OF CANADA, LIMITED.

Editor.—Fred. W. Field.
Business Manager.—James J. Salmond.
Advertising Manager.—A. E. Jennings.

The Monetary Times was established in 1867, the year of Confederation. It absorbed in 1869, The Intercolonial Journal of Commerce, of Montreal; in 1870, The Trade Review, of Montreal; and The Toronto Journal of Commerce.

Terms of Subscription, payable in advance:

Canada and Great Britain.		United States and other Countries.	
One Year	\$3.00	One Year	\$3.50
Six Months	1.75	Six Months	2.00
Three Months	1.00	Three Months	1.25

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION.

HEAD OFFICE: Corner Church and Court Streets, Toronto.

Telephone Main 7404, or Main 7405, branch exchange connecting all departments.

Western Canada Office: Room 404, Builders' Exchange Building. G. W. Goodall, Business and Editorial Representative. Telephone Main 7550.

Montreal Office: B33, Board of Trade Building. T. C. Allum, Editorial Representative, Phone M. 1001.

London Office: Grand Trunk Building, Cockspur Street. T. R. Clougher, Business and Editorial Representative. Telephone 527 Central.

All mailed papers are sent direct to Friday evening trains. Subscribers who receive them late will confer a favor by reporting to the circulation department.

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New York.—Moody's Magazine, 35 Nassau Street.

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PEACE AND WAR.

The sending of twenty thousand American troops to the Mexican border and the preparation of a practical plan for the abolition of war are two events which President Taft has directed in the past few weeks. They illustrate that the best intentions may be temporarily checked by immediate circumstances. Canada has a double interest in these happenings. Several millions of Canadian capital are invested in Mexico, and changes and disruption there naturally have a vital bearing on those investments. Secondly, the Dominion has a close interest in the drafting at Washington of a new arbitration treaty between the United States and Great Britain. Events move rapidly in these days. War usually comes suddenly, sometimes unexpectedly, often from the smallest provocation. That the United States and Great Britain—both powerful and influential nations, one of them with extraordinary spheres of influence, the other with enterprise and ambition—should not become embroiled in warfare, is necessary for the world's peace and welfare. Canada as the leading overseas empire of Great Britain and as the geographical partner of the United States has no desire to become the bone of contention. For many reasons, then, we may wish Secretary of State Knox and British Ambassador Bryce the best progress and results in preparing and consummating the treaty.

The world was greatly astonished the other week by an official announcement across the border that some 20,000 troops had been ordered to San Antonio, Texas, to Los Angeles, and other points near the Mexican border, for participation, so it was originally phrased, in "extensive manœuvres to try out organization and equipment," the movement to embrace joint action with the navy at Galveston. Many conjectures were made as to the reasons for this action. Its warlike appearance was mollified by the following dispatch of the Associated Press correspondent accompanying the President on his holiday journey to Atlanta:—

"All doubt as to the purpose of the Government in sending 20,000 troops to the Mexican border has at last been swept away. The United States has determined that the revolution in the republic to the south must end. The American troops have been sent to form a solid military wall along the Rio Grande to stop filibustering and to see that there is no further smuggling of arms and men across the international boundary.

"There is a general belief that the rapid movement of troops into Texas and Southern California will so speedily accomplish its purpose that the net results in the end will constitute a valuable lesson in quick mobilization of an effective fighting force that will prove a revelation to the country at large, to the critics of the army in particular, and a justification of the diplomatically worded explanations that have been given out from official sources in Washington.