

SURPLUS TO \$6,74 IN MARCH

Table with columns: American Railway Association, Surplus, Net surplus, etc. showing financial data for March 1915.

PARISIEN FIRE INQUIRY CLOSED WILL REOPEN IF NECESSARY

Examination of Father of Proprietors Fails to Throw Further Light on Cause of Early Morning Outbreak. Investigation of the fire which caused panic among the guests of the Cafe Parisien in the early hours of March 8 was concluded yesterday before Commissioner Ritchie by the hearing of Louis Brossard and David Parker, who were examined by Mr. H. T. Hackett. The commissioner said he would re-open the case if Mr. Hackett could bring any other important witness. A Mr. and Mrs. Ross, who were staying at the hotel on the night of the fire, had answered a subpoena for Saturday morning, when the investigation was to have been continued, but had since gone out of town. Louis Brossard had been in the employ of the Parisien family for twenty-five years. For the last five years the Cafe Parisien had been acquired by the Parker Brothers from Joseph Gravel, he had been working as porter at the cafe. He described the arrangements in the basement of the cafe. The room in which the fire had originated, near a dumb waiter, had been used as a kitchen till about two months before the fire. Brossard said the dumb waiter was installed in such a manner as to prevent any accumulation of rubbish beneath it. The empty cases which were piled at one end of the room were always nailed up with the packing inside, and kept till the load was ready. The witness declared that there was no rubbish lying round in this room. The furnace had been stoked for the night at 5.30 on the evening before the fire broke out. It was a fairly cold night, but the witness did not know if any one ever touched the fire at night, for he left at 6 o'clock in the evening. He used to see that the fire was banked in such a manner as to keep it alight till he came back at 7 o'clock in the morning. David Parker, father of Messrs. John and James Parker, the proprietors of the cafe, said he had absolutely no financial interest in the concern, which was conducted entirely by his sons. Five years ago he had retired from business himself. He said the charges issued by the firm had to bear two signatures, either one of his sons and his own, or both his sons. He had power of attorney to sign the cheques, but his signature alone was not recognized by the bank. Mr. Parker said he spent a great deal of his time in the cafe, "seeing that things went right." If things did not go right, he said, he would take steps to see that they did. His authority was recognized. Though Mr. Parker said he seldom left the cafe for his home in Outremont before midnight, yet he would spend most of the time at the cafe in the afternoon talking to his friends. At the conclusion of Mr. Parker's evidence, the commissioner inquired about further witnesses who were expected yesterday, but these had failed to appear, and Mr. Hackett thought they were not of great importance. Commissioner Ritchie accordingly closed the case.

RESOLUTIONS OF RETAIL MERCHANTS.

St. John, N.B., April 14.—Some one hundred members of the New Brunswick branch of the Retail Merchants' Association are in convention here. A series of resolutions passed include:— To support the purchase of goods "Made in Canada" which would bear a profit now denied the retailers who handle Canadian-made goods, providing that the manufacturers did not allow the goods to be sold for price-cutting by others on lines not made in Canada. To provide, if possible, for the taxation on mail order firms so as to equalize the taxation paid by local retailers. To favor a change in the Lord's Day Act making the buyer of goods on Sunday equally liable with the vendor. In favor of abolishing all lottery and guessing competitions, to include all premium manufacturers' products.

RUSSIANS BUY ARMY SHOES.

Contracts have been placed by representatives of the Russian government with at least four New England shoe manufacturers for 2,000,000 pairs of army shoes, according to the Shoe and Leather Reporter. The names of the factories are withheld. The shoes are of the regulation army type, made after the British pattern. Specifications are said to stipulate that the leather shall be natural colored wax splits. The soles are to be hobnailed, and many of the shoes are to have canvas tops. It is said that the firms in question are keeping their names from the public in order to avoid the blacklist which the German government is reported to be planning against American firms which are supplying the allies with war materials of various kinds. Providing the shoes in question prove satisfactory, considerable future business is looked for with Russia.

POLICE TO REGULATE JITNEYS.

Hamilton, Ont., April 14.—The city council is drafting a by-law which will give the police the necessary authority to regulate the jitney business. This step has been occasioned owing to the fact that it is not uncommon to see as many as eight jitneys in a seven-seated car, and 30 miles an hour often reached on the public streets.

NOTICES OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS, 25c each

BIRTHS. BAKER—At 729 Boulevard street, on April 10th, to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Baker, Jr., a son. MARRIAGES. PRIMEAU-MILLS—On April 8th, 1915, at the residence of the bride's parents, by the Rev. Henri Joliat, Elizabeth Marr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Mills, to J. Edward Primeau, son of the late Antoine Primeau and Mrs. Primeau, both of Montreal. DEATHS. BRECH—At the Royal Victoria Hospital, on April 13th, Frances Anderson, dearly beloved wife of Wm. Beech. CHAPMAN—Accidentally killed April 12th, Richard Alfred, age 34 years, son of the late Wm. Chaff, and beloved husband of Bridget McGrath, of 27 York street. DOWLER—On April 13th, at his late residence, 1833 Park avenue, Oliver Dowler, son of the late Gabriel Dowler, of Ottawa, Ont., and dearly beloved husband of Maud Bell. GIBBIN—On April 12th, at 84 Richmond street, St. Charles, James Gribbin, son of the late Robert Gribbin, M.D., of Glasgow, Scotland. HONAN—On April 11th, Martin Honan, advocate, age 70 years, at 4826 Western Avenue. TAYLOR—At the Royal Victoria Hospital, on April 12, Mary Lafontaine, beloved wife of F. E. Taylor, aged 68 years.

REAL ESTATE

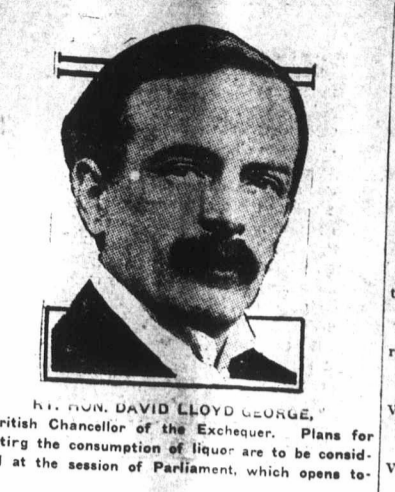
William H. Creed sold to Herbert A. Williams a property known as lot No. 218-138, Parish of Montreal, containing 50 by 111 feet, with building at 672 Roselyn avenue, Westmount, for \$28,000. Octave Hogue sold to James Nelson and others, lots 228-683 and 684, parish of Sault au Recollet, in Ahuntsic Ward, with buildings, 900 Gouin boulevard, having a total superficial area of 5,609 square feet, for \$7,500. Arthur D. Rosaire sold to Jean Brunette, a certain emplacement known as lots 287-11 to 13, parish of Montreal, with buildings 4323 Melrose avenue, Westmount, measuring 37 feet six inches on Melrose avenue by 75 feet, for \$8,600. Mrs. Michael Arthur Phelan sold to Daniel Percy Gilmore, a property having a superficial area of 2,121 square feet, known as lot No. 287-28, Parish of Montreal, with dwelling fronting on Melrose avenue, Westmount, for \$11,000. Albert Paquette sold to Dr. Felix Theoret, a parcel of land composed of lots 216-1, 216-2 and part of lot 216-3, and the southwest part of lot 216-4, parish of Sault au Recollet, containing 85 14-100 x 282 feet, bounded in front by the public road, with all buildings, for \$14,000. Improved Realities, Limited, sold to Mrs. Charles F. Dale, two vacant lots of land fronting on Cote St. Antoine Road, Westmount, known as lots 216-1 and 2, parish of Montreal, having a superficial area of 7,678 square feet, for \$1 and other good and valuable considerations. Alphonse Gratton and others sold to R. T. Beaudoin the vacant lots Nos. 14-548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 556, 557 and 558, Hochelaga Ward, and five other lots fronting on Desjardins avenue in the town of Maisonneuve, having a superficial area of 40,000 square feet, for \$36,000. The Harlem Heights Land Company sold to Alexander Orsall a block of over 800 vacant lots known as Nos. 8-16-12 to 30, to 40, to 50, to 60, to 70, to 80, to 90, to 100, to 200, to 300, to 400, to 500, to 600, to 700, to 754, situated to the northwest of the public road, northwest of Riviere des Prairies, for \$30,000. Yesterday was the busiest day seen in the local real estate market in many weeks, there being 59 transfers registered, chief among which was one involving the sum of \$19,908, for which Mrs. Elie Provost sold to the City of Montreal a property known as lot 740, St. Mary Ward, with buildings fronting on Demontigny street, having a superficial area of 3,981 square feet. William C. Towers, sold to Fronting Towers Company, Limited, a lot of land, fronting on St. Patrick street, known as lot 3720, Parish of Montreal, in Edmond Ward, and four other lots in the same place, under Nos. 3721, 3722, 3910 and 3911, Parish of Montreal, fronting on Hamilton street on lot 3722. To be deducted from said lots 3720 and 3721, a strip of land being the north part sold to the O. & Q. Ry. Co. Also 11 other lots in the same place known as lots Nos. 3993, 3994, 3995, 3996, 3997, 3998, 3999, 3723, 3724, 3725 and 3726, for \$51,500. Twenty-six real estate transfers were registered Monday, the most important involving the sum of \$31,488.55, when Matthew John Baker sold to the Westmount Land Syndicate, Limited, who sold to Michael G. Cockaliades and others, a certain block of land situated on the northwest side of St. Catherine street in Westmount. This property is composed of lots 275-2 to 10 and 276-1 and 2, Parish of Montreal, measuring 252 feet on St. Catherine street by 110 feet, bounded in front, southeast, by St. Catherine street, northeast by Redfern avenue, and southwest by Kensington avenue, and has a superficial area of 27,742 square feet. TO REPAIR COURT HOUSE SOON. Sir Lomer Gouin, accompanied by Sheriff Lemieux, inspected the Court House building yesterday. It is understood that as soon as the valuator, who are estimating the damage done to the building by the recent fire, make known their figures, tenders will be called for by the Provincial Government for the necessary repairs.

NORTH BRITISH MAY OPEN CASUALTY BRANCH IN THE U. S.

New York, April 14.—There is a probability that the North British and Mercantile will enter the Railway Passengers' Assurance of London in this country to write casualty insurance. Both companies are controlled by the same interests and the principal officers of both are identical. The projected entry of the Railway Passengers' Assurance in this country has been periodically rumored for several years past. It is the oldest and one of the strongest casualty companies in England and also does business in Canada. Mr. Arthur Worley, manager of the North British and Mercantile at the home office, is also secretary and manager of the Railway Passengers'. He is now in this country, and both he and the United States manager, Mr. E. G. Richards, are now on their way to the Pacific Coast. At the offices of the North British and Mercantile in this city it was said yesterday that they had no knowledge of the plan to enter the Railway Passengers' in this country, and, in Mr. Richards' absence, there was no one who could confirm or deny the report.

PREPARATIONS FOR NAVIGATION.

Good progress is being made in the preparations for the opening of navigation at this centre. The sheds and the different landing stations are being put in proper condition. All the steamship companies interested in the port have their schedules of sailings prepared. While there is still some ice in Lake St. Peter, this will disappear within the next few days. The buoys in the St. Lawrence channel between Quebec and Montreal will be placed in position on the 20th of this month and navigation will be declared officially opened immediately afterwards. MINING BROKER MOVES. Toronto, Ont., April 14.—Hamilton B. Willis announces that after April 19 he will be located in his new offices on the fifteenth floor of the Royal Bank Building.



MR. DAVID LLOYD GEORGE, British Chancellor of the Exchequer. Plans for limiting the consumption of liquor are to be considered at the session of Parliament, which opens today.

SHOULD GIVE HELP RATHER THAN TAXES

Life Companies Entitled to Reduction Rather Than Increase in Burdens PUBLIC SPIRITED ATTITUDE Action in Regard to War Entitles Life Companies to Consideration, Says Mr. Ferguson, of Great West. In a recent address before the Winnipeg Life Underwriters' Association, Mr. Ferguson, of the Great West Life Assurance Co., raised the question as to why people who band themselves together for mutual protection should be singled out for special taxation. On the contrary, he thought the state should do anything in its power to encourage such providing, because it undoubtedly has the effect of relieving the state from considerable expenditure in looking after those who would otherwise be left destitute on the death of the breadwinner of the family. As a parallel the speaker instanced the Patriotic Fund, to which the citizens have made certain contributions intended to aid the dependents of soldiers and relieve distress among the needy. It would be regarded as monstrous if the province should take away by taxation any portion of the contributions made for that purpose. So far as concerned shareholders' interests in the business of life insurance, Mr. Ferguson frankly admitted that there should be taxation, but he represented very strongly that a tax on premium income is an improper method, because it takes no account of the question whether the business results in a profit or a loss to the shareholders. As a matter of fact the non-participating business does not invariably result in a profit. The taxes and licenses paid by the West's largest life company to various governments amounted last year to 75 per cent. of the total profits credited to shareholders' accounts. The additional tax, said Mr. Ferguson, was shown to be in effect retroactive in that it applies to contracts entered into years ago. Companies cannot increase premiums to cover added charges imposed. Continuing, the speaker advanced reasons why life insurance should rather be relieved from taxation than have an increased burden placed upon it at the present time. Thousands of policyholders have gone to the front, and a large number of them will lose their lives. In connection with policies on the lives of the soldiers the companies have adopted a public spirited attitude. Many of the contracts in force prior to the war were subject to extra premiums for military service, but the companies have generally decided to waive such extra premiums, so that the insured would be protected at the usual rate of premium. Before the war is over the claims incurred by all the Canadian companies will amount upon the millions, and the payment of this money to the dependents will be of the utmost value to the country as a whole, and will, no doubt, save the state a large expenditure which they would otherwise have to assume in providing for those left destitute. The companies hope that they will be able to meet these war claims without serious embarrassment although no doubt some of the younger companies will find their financial statements seriously affected by the unusual strain. Instead of showing a disposition to help at this time, the governments seem inclined to make it more difficult and burdensome to carry on the work, said Mr. Ferguson. He held that the companies might in reason have asked the government to pay at least the extra premiums which they could have collected, but for the patriotic stand taken by them.

CALGARY PETROLEUM PRODUCTS OVERWHELMED WITH ORDERS

Calgary, Alta., April 14.—The Calgary Petroleum Products Company is being overwhelmed with orders for its oil for farmers in Southern Alberta who desire it for use in their tractors, according to a statement made by Field Manager Naramore. The company sells its oil at 19 cents per gallon as against approximately 30 cents asked for the Rockefeller oil. Apart from the price, farmers prefer the local product, which, they say, does more and better work.

FUTURES IRREGULAR.

Liverpool, April 14.—Futures closed irregular, unchanged to two points net advance, May-June, 5.65%; July-August, 5.79%; Oct.-Nov., 5.95; Jan.-Feb., 6.02.

WESTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY FIRE AND MARINE. Assets Over \$3,500,000.00. Losses paid since organization over \$61,000,000.00. HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT. W. R. BROCK, President. W. B. MEIKLE, Vice-President and General Manager. QUEBEC PROVINCE BRANCH 61 St. Peter Street, MONTREAL. ROBERT BICKERDIKE, Manager.

PERSONALS

Mr. H. Bayne, of Toronto, is at the Windsor. Mr. A. B. Fisher, of Toronto, is at the Windsor. Mr. C. D. Lamontagne, of Ottawa, is at the Windsor. Mr. J. H. Gaudry, of Quebec, is at the Place Viger. Mr. Gordon Taylor, of Toronto, is at the Ritz-Carlton. The Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King is in Denver, Colorado. Mr. Donald Fraser, of Fredericton, is at the Place Viger. Major Victor Pelletier, of Quebec, is at the Place Viger. Mr. J. H. Parkhill, of Winnipeg, is at the Ritz-Carlton. Mr. T. A. Bromwell, of Ottawa, is at the Ritz-Carlton. Mr. J. A. McNaughton, of Victoria, B.C., is at the Windsor. Mr. Charles Harvey, of St. John's, Nfld., is at the Ritz-Carlton.

SWEDISH WAR INSURANCE.

The Swedish State War Insurance Commission has published some interesting particulars relating to the first six months of war risk insurance. The aggregate value of property insured in this period amounted to 700,000,000 kr., of which 448,000,000 kr. covered vessels and the balance of 252,000,000 kr. goods. The largest amount of insurance effected in any one month was 30,000,000 kr. for ships in October, and 55,000,000 kr. for cargo in November. The number of vessels insured is about 3,320, while cargo policies number 14,530. Up to the end of February there had been paid on vessels and cargo 2,215,000 kr. The premiums paid for the same period amounted to 7,720,000 kr.

SPECIAL WAR STAMPS MUST BE USED ON MAIL TO-MORROW.

The Postmaster desires to specially direct the attention of the public to the War Tax which comes into effect to-morrow morning (the 15th instant), when a one cent war tax stamp (or ordinary postage stamp) must be placed on all letters and post cards mailed in Canada for delivery in the United States, Canada or Mexico, and on each letter mailed in Canada for delivery in the United Kingdom and British possessions generally, wherever the two cent rate applies. Whenever possible a special war stamp is to be used for prepaying this war tax, but if ordinary postage stamps are used for the purpose they will be accepted. Please place the war stamp on the upper right hand corner of the envelope or post card, close to the regular postage stamp, so that it can be cancelled easily at the same time. Particular care should be exercised by the public to see that this extra charge is not omitted, because when it is, or when war tax stamps are used to prepay postage as well as the war tax, such mail matter will not be forwarded, but will be returned to the sender, if his or her name appears thereon, and if the name of the sender does not appear on the article, then it will be returned through the Dead Letter Office.

SALE OF NEW HAVEN NOTES APPROVED.

New York, April 14.—The directors of New Haven at their meeting on Tuesday approved of the sale of the \$27,000,000 1-year 5 per cent notes to a syndicate composed of J. P. Morgan & Co., The First National Bank, National City Bank, Kidder, Peabody & Co., and Lee, Higginson & Co. President Elliott said: "The gross earnings show a slight increase for March, and it is believed the operating expenses will show a good decrease, so that there will be a net increase, although probably not as large as for February. The volume of business now being done is not quite as large as it was in 1913 and 1914, but there are indications of an improvement."

GOVERNMENT BUREAU PAID FIRST WAR LOSS OF \$401,000

Relieved of Possibility of Loss of \$53,403,000 in Ships, But Vessels Worth \$13,184,000 Have Not Completed Voyages.

Washington, April 14.—The Government war risk insurance bureau paid its first claim yesterday for losses due to the European war. A Treasury warrant for \$401,000 was drawn in favor of Harris-Irby and Vose, of New York, owners of the American steamer Evelyn, sunk off the coast of Holland, supposedly by a mine, February 29. The Evelyn was the first American boat lost during the war. Of the amount paid, \$301,000 was for her cargo of cotton, and \$100,000 for her hull. Necessary proof of loss reached the Treasury Department on April 1. In the period from the issuance of the British blockade order, March 2, until March 10, not a single application for cover was received by the Bureau of War Risk Insurance. From March 10 to March 31 twenty-one policies were issued. The amount insured under these policies was \$2,874,000 and the premiums amounted to \$45,576. The average value of insurance written in the six months from Sept. 1 to March 1 was more than \$10,000,000 a month, while the total loss for the month of March was less than \$3,000,000. The total premiums received monthly in the first six months made an average of over \$20,000 a month, while the total for March was less than \$50,000. The total number of policies issued from the opening of the Bureau to April 1 was 1,085. The premiums paid in upon this insurance reached the sum of \$1,720,500 and the value of the vessels and cargoes insured was \$87,587,000. Of this risk, ships have arrived safely to the value of \$53,403,000, and the Bureau consequently is relieved of the possibility of this loss. The vessels which have not yet completed their voyage safely are worth \$13,184,000. The loss sustained by the Bureau amounted to \$670,000, which leaves, counting the salvage of the wrecks, a profit to the total of \$1,414,000. The expenses for the maintenance of the Bureau for the seven months have been less than \$10,000.

IRON STARTED OUTBREAK IN SILK WAIST CO'S PREMISES

A blaze in the seventh storey of the Sommer building at 254 Ontario street west was discovered by the watchman of the building at nine o'clock last night. The firemen of the Central Division under District Chief Lussier responded to the alarm, and found the outbreak to be in the pressing room of the American Silk Waist Company. It is thought that a hot iron set fire to the ironing board on which it was left when the employees went home at six o'clock. The damage was slight.

Fire thought to have originated from an overheated stove in a vacant house belonging to George Robitaille, 129 Gertrude street, did damage to the extent of \$500 before Chief Dubeau and his men gained control. A stove had been kept going in the house, which was to have been occupied by a new tenant this week.

COTTON CARGO BURNED.

Naples, April 14.—Six thousand bales of American cotton aboard the steamer San Guglielmo were destroyed by fire in the harbor here on Saturday. The loss is estimated at 1,000,000 lire (\$200,000). Firemen, customs guards and troops were unable to extinguish the flames before the cargo was ruined. The San Guglielmo, an Italian steamer of 5,000 tons, sailed from Galveston March 16 for Genoa and Naples by way of New York.

TRADE BALANCE FAVORS UNITED STATES.

Washington, D.C., April 14.—The trade balance in favor of the United States for six weeks ended April 10, amounted to \$157,581,533, and for four months to April 10, \$395,987,375.

PERSONAL.

THE REV. M. O. SMITH, M.A., WILL ADVISE with fathers concerning the instruction and education of their sons. No. 544 Sherbrooke St. West. Or telephone Main 3071, and ask for Mr. Kay.

REAL ESTATE AND TRUST COMPANIES

Quotations for to-day on the Montreal Real Estate Exchange, Inc., were as follows:—

Table with columns: Bid, Asked. Lists various real estate and trust companies with their respective bid and asked prices.