SPECULATIVE FLOTATIONS

Affect London Market—Some Canadian Issues Not Taken Up—Passing of Canadian Canned Goods.

Monetary Times Office,
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With money in much demand, and with an increasing rate, it is little wonder that markets are depressed, particularly when one considers the large flotations of a purely speculative character, that have appeared upon the market since January 1. Investments in many instances cannot be realized upon, and consequently have a depressing effect upon investments all along the line.

The bank rate is high, being 4½ to 4¾ for bank loans, and from 5 to 5¼ as between brokers or their clients, so that one must not be surprised if during the next few weeks we find the banks calling up various loans, and the brokers demanding that their clients should take up stock or pay in full for their recent subscriptions, many of which the client cannot realize upon.

In the face of these conditions Canadians are still holding their own, many of them showing slight advances, notably the Southern Alberta, which is doing well in anticipation of the approaching annual report.

Among recent issues, Western timber still remains in the hands of the underwriters, while of the Manitoba loan which closed last night, some 87% is still held by the underwriters. The conditions of the loan and not the security is responsible for this state of affairs. Canadian provinces and municipalities must yet learn to deal liberally with the British investor, for after all England has the money, and Canada cannot dictate terms.

Standard Oil Falls Flat.

The Standard Oil Company of Canada's flotation as far as can be learned has proved a fiasco, and as stated on the street this morning, deservedly so, for in the prospectus and accompanying map, districts indicated were not of sufficiently established reputation to inspire the public with confidence.

The various banks and financial institutions of France are shortly to offer to the public, securities amounting to some 1,350,000,000 francs, made up largely of the Japanese loan to be issued next week, amounting to 450,000,000 francs, the Mexican loan for 550,000,000 francs, the Morocco loan for 150,000,000 francs, the Peruvian loan for 140,000,000 francs, and the 3½% Ethiopian loan with the French Government guarantee amounting to 50,000,000 francs.

At present a Mexican loan at 5% is chiefly held in Germany and the reason for transfer to France is that the French investor is content with a smaller interest.

Sir Edward Clouston, Bart., general manager of the Bank of Montreal, has been paying his annual visit to London, and was busy during his brief stay. He has been the recipient of much entertainment at the hands of leading financial and political personages.

Listing of Canadian Securities.

The Stock Exchange committee have been asked to appoint a special settling day in which to grant a quotation to:—

The Canadian Cement Company—£205,500 6% 20 year first mortgage bonds of £100 each.

Canadian Northern Railway Company—Scrip fully and partly paid for a further issue of £1,000,000 4% perpetual consolidated debenture stock.

Town of Maisonneuve, Montreal—Scrip fully and partly paid for £143,800 4½% debentures.

And to allow the following securities to be quoted in the official list:—

Amalgamated Asbestos Corporation—$2,017,000, first mortgage 30 year 5% sinking fund gold bonds, Nos. 1 to 500 of $1,000 and A1 to 3034 of $500 each.

City of Edmonton—Further issue of £29,900 sterling 4½% debentures 1929 and 1949 of £100 each, Nos. 6734 to 7032.

The article on British capital investments in Canada, published in The Financial Times here by special arrangement with The Monetary Times, was well received in the city. Such an article as this appearing in so important a journal will materially assist in a better understanding between the British investor and the companies making flotations.

Canadian Canned Goods.

During the past year there has been a more noticeable absence of Canadian brands of canned goods in the average British store. The large stores always keep Canadian goods, but they are seldom seen, and rarely offered, while in the ordinary grocers' shops, both city and provincial, they are not kept at all. This appears to be a serious matter from the Canadian producers' standpoint, and the only explanation that is forthcoming is the statement that the person who represented Canadian canning establishments some years ago has left, and that at present the stores are canvassed more persistently for U. S. brands, in some instances being assured that the Canadian fruit is not as good or as tasty as that which has grown in the sunnier south, an explanation which is quite satisfactory to the English purchaser who has a pre-conceived idea of Canada's everlasting snow. It is an undoubted fact that in many lines the selling of the Canadian product is the weak end, and that the sins which are so often charged upon the British manufacturer applies with even greater force to his Canadian brother. The English trader has to consider a serious import duty, whereas the free markets of England offer no such excuse to the Canadian producer, and provided quality is high, and price right, London can and would absorb all that Canada can afford to export. The U. S. exporters are alive to this fact, and are pushing hard both by personal solicitation and liberal advertising to secure this field for themselves.

Trade in British Made Goods.

The register of British manufacturers has been formed in order to develop trade in British made goods, and is in reality an All British Society. The chairman is Mr. C. Charlton, vice-president of the London Chamber of Commerce, and the council includes prominent business men from the city, provincial towns and Scotland. Mr. T. S. Sheldrake is secretary. The objects for which the society is established are given as follows:—

1. To combat the fraudulent marking as British of foreign made goods.

2. To promote the sale of British manufacturers in preference to foreign made goods.

3. To adopt and register for the use of members a mark or marks under Section 62 (Standarization), of the Trade Marks Act of 1905.

4. To promote, forward, and assist the international protection of industrial property in such mark or other marks as may be registered as the property of the members.

5. To bring to the notice of the public the risks and disadvantages to it arising from unfair practices in trade.

6. To bring to the notice of the public the advantages of giving preference to goods marked by the registered manufacturers in making purchases.

7. To watch the proposals and proceedings of the British Government and municipalities and other public bodies with respect to contracts, and to take such steps in reference thereto as may be deemed fit in the interests of British industries.

8. To induce British Colonial Governments to grant protection for the society's mark or marks, and to extend inter-imperial trade relations by enrolling as members the manufacturers and producers of such Colonies as are willing to give reciprocal protection for the society's mark or marks.

Five Classes of Goods.

The registration fee is £2. 2. 0. per annum. Goods entitled to rank as British manufactured in accordance with the rules of the society are:—

Class 1. Goods manufactured in this country from materials produced in this country.

Class 2. Goods manufactured in this country from raw materials and food stuffs in Schedule A, any part of which were imported provided such manufactured goods are sold under a trade name other than that under which they were imported.

Class 3. Goods as in Classes 1 and 2, but of which not more than 10 per cent. of the manufacturer's cost price is represented by ingredients or components manufactured abroad.

Class 4. Raw materials and food stuffs produced wholly in this country. Meat, poultry and game, provided the animal shall have lived in the United Kingdom twelve months previous to its slaughter. Fresh fish cannot be sold under the mark, but fish cured, salted, canned, or prepared solely in the United Kingdom may be sold under the mark.

Class 5. Goods specified in Schedule B, if manufactured in this country and sold under a trade name other than that under which they were imported.

Schedule A contains a list of articles recognized by the council as raw materials and food-stuffs, and Schedule B a list of partly manufactured goods and manufactured goods which are the raw materials of other industries.

Continental Exhibitions.

Next week will see the opening of several important exhibitions, one of which Brussels, promises to be the most extensive and attractive one that has been held for a number of years, surpassing in extent and beauty the Paris Exhibition, and the various others that have since been held. It is a pity, in view of this, that Canada will be so badly placed, and consequently, lose most of the advantage that otherwise might have accrued to the country. It is well-known, that many months ago, Canada was offered one of the best positions on the ground, and had they acted promptly, as they were urged to do, might have secured that which would have been the finest position. They did not, and the result is that the attractive building with the usually comprehensive interior display is lost in obscure surroundings. A smiliar fate befalls the Grand Trunk, who have followed the location of the Dominion Pavilion. The Canadian Pacific, however, has its Pavilion so well placed, that no one can fail to see it, and thereby in some degree the situation has been saved, as this is an excellent advertisement, and its attractiveness is sure to rouse interest.

The Vienna Exhibition which also opens May 1, promises great things from the standpoint of attendance and beauty of design. Here, the Dominion is unrepresented, but the Grand Trunk Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway are well located, and everything has been done to keep Canada to the front, although the industrial side will be unrepresented, much to the loss of Canadian trade.—T. R. Sea.

The capital stock of the Jacobs Exploration Company, Limited, has been decreased from $5,000,000 to $1,000,000, the decrease consisting of 40,000 shares of $100 each.

The Canadian Railway Accident Insurance Company is moving its Toronto quarters from King Street West to the new Lumsden Building, corner of Adelaide and Yonge Streets, Toronto.