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The rapidly growing circulation and influence of this journal in the East and in Great Britain, and the untoward events that have transpired in this Province, have resulted in numerous inquiries for information caused in some cases by apprehension. We therefore offer our services through our inquiry column, which is open to subscribers and the public generally without charge, for detailed information or opinion as to financial or industrial affairs or institutions throughout the Province of British Columbia. Wherever possible the replies to these inquiries will be made through this column. Where inquiries are not of general interest, they will be handled by letter. We think that we can assure our readers that the opinions expressed will be sane and conservative, and that all statements will be as accurate as possible.

In connection with the deplorable state of affairs that the Dominion Trust Company is in, it is important that a permanent liquidator be appointed who will at once enjoy the confidence of the community and possess the ability and judgment to effect the best settlement possible. It is also important that the investigations and the disclosures made be given due publicity, not only in justice to institutions doing a similar business in Vancouver and the Province, but for the benefit of the public and the shareholders who are so widely distributed. The full light of publicity thrown on this sorry affair will be the best amends we can make at this time, and will be an evidence of our good faith to prevent at all costs a repetition of this disaster. At the same time it will help to restore confidence, and will place us in the best light in the great investing centres. Washing our dirty linen in public may not be to our liking, but it has its undoubted advantages.

The passage of the Trust Company Act at the last session of the Legislature calls for reform in the limitation of the powers of trust companies and the proper supervision and inspection of their activities. This Act and an aroused public opinion will have a strong tendency to prevent abuses in the operation of fiduciary institutions, if it does not all but make their recurrence impossible.

A reform to be worked out concerns the board of directors of institutions of trust. A director must assume full responsibility for the act of his management and be conversant with every act of that management, or be compelled to resign. He must really direct, and he must be held to a full accountability for the actions of his institution.

The loan secured through the efforts of the Premier of six million dollars from the Dominion Government for the construction of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway was a most fortunate occurrence, and particularly timely. It will admit of the continued prosecution of this railway to Fort George without any delay. Any interruption would be especially unfortunate, since to cease construction on account of lack of funds would make the value of the railway for through transportation of no effect, and leave open to it only the local business that would naturally develop through the settlement of the country south of Fort George. The view that the Dominion Government has taken of this matter has shown that it is thoroughly alive to the necessity for the completion of the railway at the earliest possible date. That the Federal Government could at this time render such large and tangible assistance speaks volumes for the inherent strength of the finances of the Dominion.

The attitude of the Dominion Government is shared in large measure by the British Government and the great London financial interests. When money is vitally needed to complete or make available for great economic uses projects and undertakings which make for the prosperity of the Dominion or any of the Provinces, the money will be forthcoming. It would not surprise us that in addition to financing the most gigantic and costly war in history not only for the Empire but also rendering financial assistance to the Allies that a considerable amount of funds will be loaned out to the Dominion for necessary developments. While the security will be more closely scanned than ever and the price will be necessarily higher the money may still be obtained.

The completion of the Grand Trunk this fall and the completion of the Canadian Northern by spring as well as the opening up of hitherto unavailable acreage on the Pacific Great Eastern will institute a movement this spring for immigrants both from the United States and Europe despite the war which will outdo anything that the railways have yet attempted. We have hints of these plans from the immigration department of the Canadian Pacific and the steamship companies which will use the Panama Canal to Vancouver and Prince Rupert will enter for the first time as a factor in this immigration movement of no mean moment. War stricken districts in Europe will prove fertile fields for the propaganda, and the tremendous stimulus of high prices for food products will be a little too much for the farmers in the United States to resist.

In view of a few of these considerations which are just hinted at it would not be surprising that the ensuing spring would initiate an actual forward movement in the face of fighting a costly and devastating war.