

LOAN COMPANIES AND FARMERS GET TOGETHER.

The recent conference at Winnipeg between representatives of the Mortgage Loans Associations of the three prairie provinces and of farmers' organisations resulted in the unanimous adoption of the subjoined resolutions. It will be noticed that legislation giving priority over first mortgages to claims other than legitimate taxes, about which there has lately been much complaint on the part of the loan companies, was heartily condemned:—

Resolved, that in the opinion of this conference it is desirable in the interest of both farmers and loan companies in the three prairie provinces:—

(a) That all legislation affecting mortgages and titles should as far as possible be made uniform.

(b) That sale and foreclosure procedure be simplified in order that the present excessive costs and delays may be reduced to a minimum.

(c) That the tariff costs in sale and foreclosure actions under mortgage be removed from the rules of court and made statutory.

(d) That the present tariff of fees charged for registration in sale and foreclosure proceedings is needlessly high and should be reduced.

(e) That all existing legislation giving priority over first mortgages to claims other than legitimate taxes should be repealed, and that no future legislation of that nature should be enacted.

(f) That in order to give effect to the preceding resolutions, a committee composed of representatives of both farmers and loan companies be formed in each province to study the details of the matters referred to and make recommendations to the conference.

(g) And further we would recommend that these local committees should inquire into and discuss all causes of friction between farmers and loan companies with the object of removing all unnecessary causes of friction.

THE DOMINION'S DEBT.

At the end of July the net debt of the Dominion had increased to \$635,203,914, a growth of \$41,293,276 during the month and of nearly \$182,000,000 during the last twelve months. The net debt at the end of last month was approximately \$300 millions more than on the outbreak of war.

Temporary loans at the end of July were up to \$226,340,351, against \$194,073,684 in the previous month. This increase presumably reflects the temporary loan of \$30,000,000 to the Dominion Government made by the banks. At the end of the present month this item will probably show a very large decrease, owing to the funding of the temporary war loans made by the British to the Canadian Government, the amount going to swell the funded debt, which at the end of July stood at \$535,000,000. Also \$25,000,000 1-year notes negotiated by the Dominion Government in New York last year became due on August 1st, and their re-payment in cash or at the option of the holders, in long-term bonds, would have an effect on the temporary loan account.

Great Britain's short-term war securities outstanding alone now amount to over $5\frac{1}{2}$ billion dollars.

C. P. R.'S PRELIMINARY STATEMENT.

The preliminary statement of C. P. R.'s finances for the fiscal year ended June 30 shows that, on the railway and lake and coastal steamship account, the surplus available for dividends after meeting all charges was \$36,871,435, a new high record. The surplus in the previous fiscal year was \$21,508,966, the prior maximum having been recorded in 1912-13 with \$35,490,085. The 7 per cent. dividend declarations on this account during the year amount to \$21,427,277, leaving a net surplus for the year on this account of \$15,444,158, compared with \$89,915 in the preceding fiscal year.

Special income is reported as \$9,940,955, the 3 per cent. dividend paid on this account absorbing \$7,800,000, leaving a surplus for the year of \$2,140,955, which, with the previously accumulated surplus on this account, makes a total special income surplus of \$8,407,099. This year's earnings on special income account of \$9,940,955 compare with \$10,969,332 in the previous fiscal year, but they are stated as "after making allowance for contingent reserves," there being no similar allowance last year.

In brief, the Company earned last year its ten per cent. dividend, and \$23,568,232 in addition, or over \$20,000,000 more than last year, when the surplus over dividends was only \$3,259,247. The percentage earned on the common stock was 16.76 against 11.25 per cent. in 1914-15.

THE DOMINION'S REVENUE.

To the end of July—four months of the current fiscal year—the Dominion's revenue reached \$67,638,935 against \$45,848,352 in the corresponding four months of the last fiscal year. Customs revenue for the period shows a growth of nearly 60 per cent., from \$27,467,545 in 1915 to \$43,369,485 in the present year. Other detailed comparisons are as follows:—Excise, \$7,624,236 in 1916 against \$6,612,317 in 1915; post-office, \$5,500,000 against \$4,700,000; public works, \$8,376,811 against \$4,550,547; miscellaneous, \$2,718,403 against \$2,517,944.

With this rapid growth in revenue, expenditures, except, of course, that on the war, are being kept down. For the four months, the expenditure on current account totalled \$28,212,341 against \$29,376,327 in the four months of 1915. Capital expenditure, other than war expenditure, for the period was only \$6,675,000, against \$9,240,000 in the corresponding period. War expenditure for the four months was \$51,324,460, the July expenditure alone being \$29,151,429. With the revenue keeping up for the remainder of the fiscal year, it should be possible to meet a fair proportion of our war expenditure during the same period out of revenue.

BRITISH MOBILISATION BEING EXTENDED.

The British scheme of mobilisation of securities has now been extended to include bonds of many neutral countries and railways and municipal securities in those countries. The first list of these securities totals up to no less than three billion dollars—a striking indication of the immense resources possessed by Great Britain for carrying on the war. These securities are to be borrowed for five years. The list of Canadian securities accepted by the British authorities is also being steadily extended.