

BRITISH TREASURY AND INVESTMENTS ABROAD.

The following statement upon the attitude of the British Treasury to the practice of sending money abroad for investment was made recently by Mr. McKenna, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the House of Commons. In reply to a question, he said:

"While the Treasury has no desire to interfere with remittances abroad for the settlement of current commercial obligations, I regard it as contrary to the national interests that during the war remittances should be made from this country for investment abroad in any form whatever.

"It is also most desirable that moneys that accrue abroad to British subjects should be brought back to this country, and that holders of foreign securities should, when practicable, realize their holdings and invest the proceeds in British securities.

"In particular, I would point out that the remittances of money to America for the purchase of American securities and the reinvestment in America of money available for remittance to this country is directly opposed to the objects of the Treasury scheme for purchasing American securities.

"Securities purchased abroad cannot be dealt in on the Stock Exchange under the temporary regulations. Although these rules only apply to members of the Stock Exchange, most financial houses have throughout voluntarily observed the restriction, and I rely upon a continuance of their assistance in discouraging investments abroad."

HEAVY STOCKS OF WHEAT STILL TO BE MOVED.

At March 31st last, about one-half of last year's wheat crop was still in Canada in elevators, flour mills, winter storage and in farmers' hands. The Census and Statistics Department at Ottawa estimates that the total quantity of wheat and wheat flour, the latter expressed in terms of wheat, in Canada at the date named, was approximately 196 million bushels out of a merchantable crop of 358 million bushels. The amount in farmers' hands was 86,854,000 bushels, about 23 per cent. of the crop. Of oats, 45 per cent. (235,530,000 bushels) similarly remained in farmers' hands.

MANUFACTURERS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Head Office of the Manufacturers Life Insurance Company is now domiciled in the Dominion Bank Building, Toronto. The new offices are large and commodious and have been carefully laid out to accommodate the different departments of the Company. The business written during the first three months of 1916 is most satisfactory and is an indication of the popularity of an institution which for some years has been recognized as one of the best Canadian life companies.

Just before the war, an Englishman had to pay a tax of £37 10s. on each £1,000 of annual earned income; the new budget levies £105. On £1,000 of unearned income (usually investments) he paid £58 6s. 8d. before the war; now he pays £175.

AN INTER-INSURER DECLINES TO PAY.

The attention of fire insurance officials and agents is called to the particulars printed on page 489 of the claim by the Forest Mills Timber Company of British Columbia against an inter-insurance concern at Seattle known as the Lumbermen's Insurance Exchange. The Timber Company had a heavy loss a year ago partly covered by insurance in Board companies and to the extent of \$170,500 in the Exchange named. The Board companies paid up in due course; the Exchange has declined to pay and the Timber Company is now in the position of having to sue each of the members of the Exchange separately for its proportion of the loss.

Actually in one of the cases brought in the British Columbia courts, the defence is set up that the Exchange being unlicensed in British Columbia, its contracts entered into in the province are illegal, null and void, and that its members in British Columbia having no power to transact fire insurance, their contracts are null and void. This defence and the general course of action taken by the Exchange as outlined on another page, constitute a sharp warning to Canadian corporations which are rash enough to enter into arrangements of this kind, and incidentally form a most damaging indictment of the "unlicensed insurance" clause in the Dominion Insurance Act permitting business of this kind to go on without let or hindrance, and without paying any Canadian taxation.

BOARD OF TRADE SUPPORTS LICENSED FIRE COMPANIES.

The following is a copy of a resolution approved by a general meeting of the Edmonton Board of Trade recently:

"Be it resolved that the attention of the Honourable the Minister of Finance be drawn to the somewhat anomalous provisions of the Special War Revenue Act as applied to insurance companies, inasmuch as the business of licensed Canadian companies is subject to war tax while the business done by their unlicensed competitors, aggregating a very large volume, is exempt from this tax, and that it be respectfully pointed out that such exemption not only fails to utilize a productive source of revenue but is somewhat unfair to the licensed companies, and is inimical to the general policy of development of Canadian business, tending to divert business from enterprises established in Canada, to foreign concerns having no interests or investments in Canada.

"And be it further resolved that it be respectfully urged that such amending legislation be passed at the present session of Parliament as will remove this anomaly by providing for an adequate tax on the Canadian business of insurance companies not licensed in Canada."

It is announced by Sir Thomas White that since the establishment of the Banks' credit of \$76 millions to the British Government, new orders for munitions and supplies to a value of \$80 millions have been placed in Canada by the British authorities.