

The Chronicle

Banking, Insurance and Finance

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 F. WILSON-SMITH, ARTHUR H. ROWLAND,
Proprietor. Editor.

Office:

406-408 LAKE OF THE WOODS BUILDING,
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AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FAVOURABLE.

Canada's financial markets throughout the week have been under the gloom of the great shipping disaster in the Gulf. The magnitude of the catastrophe and its nearness oppressed Montreal and Toronto to as great an extent as the loss of the Titanic affected New York and London over two years ago. Such happenings as these tend to make men indisposed for the time being to enter upon or energetically push their schemes of speculation or money making; the dramatic suddenness with which so many human lives were snuffed out forces those of us who are left to pause momentarily and give attention to matters which do not fall within the daily routine

MARKET EFFECT SLIGHT.

So far as the effect of the disaster on the intrinsic value of securities traded in the active list is concerned, the market apparently does not rate it as an important development. Canadian Pacific stock weakened but slightly as a result of the news. Until it is definitely settled by the courts where the responsibility for the accident belongs, the matter

of possible claims against the C. P. R. Company cannot be weighed or calculated with any satisfaction. So far, the opinion of the market evidently is that the stock will not be appreciably affected by developments in this connection.

AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FAVORABLE.

As regards agricultural progress in Canada, the week has been favorable in all respects. What the Western provinces and the whole country are now hoping for is a favorable June. Seeding is finished and the grain is doing exceedingly well. With reasonably good promise from the wheat fields in the summer months, the confidence of business men in the East as well as the West will tend to revive and the necessary ground for improvement in trade will exist.

OIL EXCITEMENT AT CALGARY.

There continues to be considerable excitement around Calgary over the oil discoveries. Dispatches from the Albertan centre state that the heavy local speculation in oil shares is having some tendency to cause important withdrawals of savings balances from the banks. It is regrettable that so many inexpert investors have been tempted to risk their money in questionable oil shares. Apparently many of the people who are buying stock do not discriminate at all in their purchases; it is enough for them if the stock is oil stock.

EFFECT ON C.P.R.

However, the banks and some of the newspapers are doing their best to prevent people buying the shares of doubtful companies; and it is to be hoped that the craze will not get out of hand. It has been said that the oil discoveries in Alberta have had not a little to do in strengthening the market for Canadian Pacific Railway stock—the Company having reserved the mineral rights on all land sold by it to settlers. If Alberta is shown to possess immense deposits of valuable oil some authorities have pointed out that C.P.R. shareholders are in line for bonuses and benefits far transcending anything they have yet received.

The money markets have been quiet and practically unchanged. Call loans in Montreal and Toronto are $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 per cent. as in the past; and mercantile discounts are 6 to 7.

EUROPEAN MONEY.

The English bank rate remains at 3 p.c. In the London market call money is $2\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.; short bills are 2 7-8 p.c.: and three months bills $2\frac{3}{4}$.

At Paris bank rate is $3\frac{1}{2}$ and discounts in the private market $2\frac{3}{4}$. And at Berlin, bank rate is 4, as against $2\frac{3}{4}$ in the market.

Stock markets in the European centres have been quiet and dull. The London *Standard* and other leading authorities say that improvement is positive-ly not to be expected while Mexico, Brazil, and Ulster continue to present such troublesome possi-