CLEARING HOUSE RETURNS.

The following are the figures for the Canadian Clearing Houses for the weeks ending with July 19th, 1906; July 11th, and July 18th, 1907, with percentage, increase or decrease over 1906:—

	July 19,'06.	July 11,'07.	July 18,'07.	Change
Montreal	$28,527,958	$35,298,886	$23,131,467	−18.2
Toronto	21,643,798	27,896,166	24,865,589	+29.3
Winnipeg	9,488,173	13,744,547	11,577,066	+22.01
Halifax	1,836,650	2,349,188	2,094,793	+13.5
Hamilton	1,657,111	2,024,418	1,728,646	+ 4.3
St. John	1,234,021	1,679,631	1,412,019	+14.4
Vancouver	2,708,422	4,354,898	4,182,423	+54.4
Victoria	901,840	1,305,667	1,131,777	+25.4
Quebec	1,921,996	2,383,643	2,133,328	+10.9
Ottawa	3,217,350	3,436,048	3,219,922	+ .07
London	1,204,846	1,534,109	1,452,034	+20.5
Edmonton	930,511	1,017,348	1,098,726	+18.07
Calgary	1,030,274	1,628,044	1,357,737	+31.7
Total	$76,302,950	$98,652,593	$79,385,577	+ 4.03

PORTO RICO RAILWAYS.

Stock Bonus with Bonds in Established Company Now Earning More Than Bond Interest.

In order to familiarize the general public with the position of the company in anticipation of the listing of its securities on the Toronto and Montreal Stock Exchanges, and to place the remainder of the issue, a large part of which has already been sold, an offering of bonds of the Porto Rico Railways Company, Limited, is being made by advertisement on another page. The subscription price is 92½, at which the yield upon the investment is 5½ per cent., and subscriptions carry stock bonuses of 50 per cent. of the par value of the bonds.

The electric railway and electric lighting business of the company has been in operation for several years, and what is stated as an unusual feature in an issue of bonds carrying a stock bonus is that the present rate of net earnings of the Porto Rico Railways Company considerably exceeds the interest on the whole outstanding bond issue, although over $1,000,000 of the proceeds of the issue are not yet represented in earnings, and the expenditure of that sum now being made will greatly increase both gross and net earnings.

The prospectus outlines the position of the enterprise quite fully, and the securities are strongly recommended by A. E. Ames and Company Limited, who make the offering, in conjunction with the Royal Securities Corporation, of Montreal and Halifax, and J. C. Mackintosh and Company, of Halifax. Mr. Ames has made two visits to Porto Rico within the last year in connection with this enterprise with directors and officers of the company.

Porto Rico is a possession of the United States, with what is said to be the third densest rural population in the world, and has free entry for its products into the United States. This preference, coupled with the fertile soil and favorable climate, has led to such rapid development of the country since the American occupation that, roughly, both the exports and imports were 2½ times in 1906 what they were in 1901.

BEST WHEAT INSPECTION IN THE WORLD.

Oldest Liverpool Miller Gives Grain Commission Some Pleasing Opinions—British Money and Cobalt—Steel Combination—Banking and Insurance Notes.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, 5th July.

Prospects of Canadian grain in the English market are very favorable. Just how bad the dismal summer will make our harvest cannot be accurately foretold. The British crop will be a poor one—probably extremely poor.

More Canadian Wheat for Britain.

Mr. Nelstrop, the oldest miller in the Liverpool market, commends the quality of the Manitoba wheat, but he most praises the system of inspection. "The only satisfactory inspection of wheat in the world. . . . The only wheat he would buy for his purposes upon a certificate of inspection" are phrases that Canadians should be gratified to hear. They were used to encourage the Government to keep classification in their own hands, and not to allow inspection to be made outside the frontier.

The words were used in the hearing of the Canadian Royal Commission on grain that is now touring this country. The Commissioners can truthfully report that they have been met cordially and frankly in this country, and that our millers are anxious to see the trade on such lines that more Canadian grain can be bought.

A desire of the Provincial Government to set itself straight with the British investor is manifested by Mr. Thomas Mulvey's letter to the Times. Criticisms on Cobalt finance have met the Assistant Secretary's eye. He thinks these particularly severe, and fears that Englishmen are getting a wrong idea of the position taken in company matters by the Government of Ontario.

Hence his letter to say that English and Ontario company laws are virtually identical. Hence his assurance that his Government is thinking out means to make American-owned Cobalt companies file prospectuses of the standard type.

Cobalt and the British Investor's Complaint.

Mr. Mulvey has nothing to say of what is probably the chief objection in England. Cobalt promoters have made very free play with Government certificates that there is ore in the claim. People who know anything know that the Legislature is not guaranteeing profitable results or dividends on capital. But just as ignoramuses are deluded by the revenue stamp on patent medicines and the brandishing of "By Royal Letters Patent," so are simpletons led to suppose that Cobalt companies have some kind of official backing. A common British view is that the Government certification does less good than harm.

Except in the most furtive way, British banks do not advertise in any manner that necessitates use of paper. They advertise by erecting big buildings and by buying out private and smaller banks. Consequently a rumor that a leading joint stock bank was to open a campaign of really modern advertisment created some sensation.

The rumour appears to be untrue, and in any case development is likely to be gradual. It would hardly pay a great English bank to lend color to theories that it was franctic for more business. The fashionable pose is to pretend publicly that you do not need business. That attitude is not for private wear.

Bonus Distribution for Prudential Policyholders.

A while ago the Prudential Life Insurance Co. began a bonus distribution to holders of its small weekly payment policies. The bonus is now to be regularized. After shareholders have got their 10 per cent., two-thirds of any surplus profits are to go toward industrial bonuses. The remaining third is to be split between the shareholders and the earners of bonus upon the outside staff. The matter is significant, because it marks the approximation of "ordinary" and "industrial" business to the same lines.

A big thing now in the making is the British Steel Trust. Negotiations leading to its formation have been carried on discreetly for some months. Not until its advent was something like certain has any responsible announcement as to its nature been made.

The idea is to form a pool to regulate output and to distribute orders pro rata. This is combination on the German model. And it is to meet German competition more effectually that a trust or cartel is needed.

Understandings between British producers and international understandings have existed previously. These are not enough. In Germany, union makes power, and power takes business. The English also have to combine, or otherwise lose the natural advantage they have over Germans, whose coal and iron are not close together, and whose works are not near the sea.

That is why firms like Vickers, Sons & Maxim, Cammell, Laird and Co., Darman, Long & Co., Guest, Keen & Co., John Brown & Co., and Stewart & Lloyd entertain the project favorably. Assuming the bargain to be clinched, the combine will control a production of some 10,000,000 tons of steel annually. The concern will be strong enough to talk back very pertinently to its German and United States rivals.

The cry that bad trade is coming grows louder. German oracles were first to declare that the iron trade was in danger. Now, the president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce says that order-books in the cotton trade are leaner than at any time this year.

May be Trade Depression.

Affairs will run for a few months yet of their present momentum. Mr. Langdon does not see where business is to get its new impetus.

Associations as well as combinations are doing what in them lies to circumvent those "natural" economic causes which rob manufacturers of their profits. Witness the conjoint action of cotton weaving mills in stopping 400,000 or more looms for two weeks in order to reduce the price of yarn or improve the price of cloth.

Spinners have stopped before in order to cool the price of speculators' raw cotton. The coalescence of the weaving interest is something new, and is more than was thought possible. The great trades become marvellously organic wholes. And, although they cannot construct an era of prosperity, they can mitigate some of the hardships of adversity.