tariff will say: *"post hoc ergo propter hoc;"* its enemies will console themselves with the reflection that the country has prospered in spite of the tariff The neutrals who hold the casting vote will be disposed to let well alone. All the signs of the times point to the tariff becoming less and less a vital issue in domestic party politics. The appointment of a Tariff Commission would advance this consummation, most devoutly to be wished.

Foreign Labour Agitators. The Canadian Federation of Labour assembled in convention this week at Ottawa. In his opening address President J. W. Patterson referred to the progress made by this purely Canadian organization during the ten months of its existence, and to the struggle going on at present with the international unions. He called attention to "the wanton abuse, vituperation and criminally libellous statements made at the Trades and Labour Congress of American branch unions at Quebec, and the gross misrepresentations of fact set forth in the resolutions passed by that body in regard to the Provincial Workmen's Association." He also favoured investigation by Government commission into the source of the money provided for the Glace Bay strike, as in the opinion of many, American capitalists rather than the Union Mine Workers were at the back of the whole trouble.

The Lords and the Budget. The conflict between the British Government and the House of Lords is becoming critical. Should the Upper House reject the budget it is semi-officially announced that a general election will be held in January. It is said that the King is anxious to avoid an acute constitutional crisis, and the situation, no doubt, includes some elements of danger to the permanent welfare of the state. The Lords, however evidently believe that they have the country with them and show little disposition to adopt a conciliatory attitude. If the Irish Land Bill is materially amended and the budget rejected, the resulting election will be a trial of strength between the conservative forces of the nation and socialism of an advanced type, and will involve the remodelling of political parties in the United Kingdom on altogether new lines.

Increased Bank Capitalization. In the past two years the paid-up capital of the Canadian banks has increased by scarcely a million dollars, but there is a likelihood of more rapid expansion during the next two years. While banking resources are at the moment ample (following upon months of trade quiet), Canada's probable business expansion will before very long lead to increased banking capitalization.

Indeed, the trend is already in evidence. It is definitely announced that the Bank of Ottawa will increase its paid-up capital stock by $500,000. It has been decided by the Board of Directors to issue 5,000 shares at $200 per share. Shareholders of record September 30, will be entitled to subscribe for one share of new stock for every six shares of stock then held.

The calls are payable in ten payments of ten per cent., beginning November 1, 1909, and continuing monthly till the last payment, due August 11, 1910.

The new issue will, doubtless, practically all be taken up by the shareholders of the bank. The price at which it is being offered is $200 per share, while the market value of the stock which pays 10 per cent., has been around $210 per share.

At the present time the authorized capital of the Bank of Ottawa is $5,000,000, the paid-up capital $3,000,000, and the reserve fund $3,000,000. The new allotment will increase the paid-up capital of the bank to $3,500,000 and the reserve fund to $3,500,000—as $100 out of every $200 received for the new stock will go to the rest fund.

A Visitor from Mexico. Mr. F. W. Green, who for seven years has been manager for Mexico of the Confederation Life Company, was a visitor to Montreal this week. Mr. Green has strong faith in the future of the southern republic, and in the development of life insurance business there. Just at present the Government has in hand a new insurance bill, the proposed features of which were outlined in THE CHRONICLE some months ago. Mr. Green states that there is reason to hope that certain clauses that would unduly have hampered the business will be modified—those in authority having shown a disposition to weigh carefully the representations of the companies. It is expected that the bill will be passed during the session of the legislature now opening.

The premium income of native and foreign life companies in Mexico was only 2,303,410 pesos (or approximately $1,150,000) in 1899. By 1907 this had increased to 6,668,558 pesos (or about $3,335,000). In 1908, owing to the world-wide business depression in which Mexico shared, the premium income declined slightly to 6,268,373 pesos (or to $3,135,000).

While signs of business recovery have not yet been so evident in Mexico as in the United States or Canada, Mr. Green is confident as to the outlook for steady improvement. In this connection it is to be hoped that yesterday's reports of frost damage to the corn crop are exaggerated.

Of the City of Mexico, Mr. Green speaks in high terms in many respects. The city itself has 400,000 inhabitants, the environs and immediately tributary country have a population of 200,000.

A World Banker. Prominent British Financiers continue to visit Canada with a view to spying the land. Sir Felix Schuster, Bart., was in Montreal this week, and his visit may mean not a little to Canada financially. Sir Felix, who is one of the world's most eminent bankers, is a member of the Council for India in London, governor of the Union of London and Smith's Bank, president and chairman of the council of the British Institute of Bankers, deputy chairman of the committee of London clearing bankers.

Maritime Provinces and West Indies. This week the Royal British West India Trade Commission got as far as St. John, N.B., on its itinerary. At its opening session in that city views of leading local business men were received.

It is human nature that each locality should consider a matter of this sort in relation to its own interests. It will be the part of the Royal Commission, to "consider the question in the large."