

Journal of Commerce

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MONTEAL, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1915.

Latest Dominion Note Returns.

The last Canada Gazette contains the bank returns and also the Government statement respecting the Dominion note circulation, both up to December 31st, 1914. The Dominion note statement does not vary much from the statement of November 26th.

The total amount of the notes in circulation was \$162,395,231.79. Of this \$50,000,000.00 requires 25% in gold.

The remainder \$112,395,231.79 requires dollar for dollar in gold.

Thus the total \$162,395,231.79 requires \$121,895,231.79 in gold.

Gold held for redemption of Dominion notes \$9,317,918.92.

Apparent over-issue \$35,578,212.86. Some portion of this may have been in the form of advances to banks against deposit of securities, under the special Act of last session.

The Government statement furnishes no information on this point, but a reference to the bank returns shows that only a small part of the note excess can be accounted for.

The total amount of the liabilities of all the banks to the Dominion Government is \$21,462,952. Probably about half of this represents the ordinary operations of the banks as collectors of Government revenues, and therefore has no relation to the government note issue.

The remainder—say eleven million dollars—may be in the form of special advances, for which the Government are authorized to issue notes. Making allowance for this, it appears that about twenty-four or twenty-five million dollars of Dominion notes that have neither gold basis nor legal authority have been issued, for purposes that are not stated.

There is a slight conflict between the statements respecting the note circulation on December 31, appearing in two parts of the Canada Gazette. The return of note circulation states the issue, as above, at \$162,395,231.79, while in the statement of the gold held for the same date the Dominion notes are placed at \$163,115,599.29. No doubt there is an explanation of this apparent discrepancy.

The Channel Tunnel.

One of the effects of the war is to revive the project for the construction of the tunnel under the English Channel. In the first few weeks following the outbreak of war, those in England opposed to the building of the tunnel pointed out that the Germans would have secured an entrance to it had it been in existence, and by means of it would have invaded England. Since that time the Germans have been driven back, and now it is the turn of those in favor of the project to advocate its construction. They point out that the tunnel could be used for the conveying of troops without the risk of submarine attacks. However, the probabilities are that it will be many years before the project is seriously entertained.

The tunnel project is an old one, having been agitated off and on for over one hundred years. A Frenchman named Mathieu proposed to Napoleon that he should construct a road under the Straits of Dover. Since the introduction of railways, both French and English engineers have agitated for a tube under the bed of the sea. In 1872 the English Channel Tunnel Company was formed, and actual boring operations commenced, but ten years later the British Government compelled the suspension of the work, largely for military reasons. In 1904 the Paris Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution favoring the scheme, and now a former member of the French Senate has again revived the project. The English Channel is only twenty-one miles wide between Dover and Calais. Its general depth is about two hundred feet, but there are hollows where the depth is considerably greater. The rock formation underlying the sea is largely chalk.

"Come to Church."

The last two Sundays in January were chosen by a very large religious organization in England, and as the occasion of a special effort to bring the people of London to the churches. A movement of similar character on this side of the ocean has been received with some doubt as to its wisdom. The view has been advanced that if one or more special Sundays are fixed for church-going, the effect will be to discourage regular attendance at church. On that account many churches have been unwilling to participate in the movement. The same question has arisen in England, but it has not deterred the promoters of the movement from proceeding with their arrangements. The undertaking is in the hands of the "National Free Church Council," a body which embraces all the Nonconformist churches. The eminent Baptist leader, Rev. F. B. Meyer, pastor of the Regent Park Baptist Church, has taken an active part in the scheme, and has very cordially commended it to his brethren. The Nonconformist congregations generally are participating in it, and a number of clergymen of the Established Church have given their adherence. "It is true," says Mr. Meyer, "that the churches are always open, but that is a general invitation, like a general invitation to visit a house. If you ask a friend to come and have dinner with you on a certain day, he is more likely to come. So with the churches. We hope not only to win back to special services, but to keep those who in the path of church-going." The Methodist body and the Salvation Army, besides cooperating with the others in the general arrangements, have added special efforts of their own. As an example of the extent to which the plans have gone, it is stated that thirty tons of literature explaining and supporting the movement were prepared for distribution. Mr. Meyer remarking, in connection with this fact, that "some people estimate religious effort by the ton." The religious world will watch with interest this movement to arouse the London millions to an interest in church work.

LO, THE POOR FARMER!

Look on this picture painted by the Department of Agriculture as a result of investigation into farm incomes.

"The average farmer receives little more money for his year's work than he would be paid if he hired himself out as a farm hand. In other words, though he is in business for himself, he gets little or no money reward for his labors and the risk and responsibility he has assumed."

Now look on this picture drawn by an exhibitor at the automobile show:—

"There are approximately 1,500,000 cars in use in the country, representing a cost of about \$1,500,000,000. The average value of a new automobile is \$980. One-half of all the automobiles in this country are owned by farmers."

So much for the Agricultural Department's average farmer in the abstract. The real farmer is "some thing else again," and the motor car salesman knows his own. For the purpose of income taxation the farmer is hard up, but the dealers in devil wagons are the best detectives of solvency that the world has ever seen.—New York Sun.

NOT VERY SUCCESSFUL.

What the report of the Manitoba government telephone for the year ended Nov. 30 last shows, on its face, is that on an investment by the people of this province totaling between \$11,000,000 and \$12,000,000 there was earned in that year \$50,000, or less than one-half of 1 per cent, and that the \$50,000 had to be devoted to replacements to make good part of the money looted from the telephone system for political purposes in past years. And, in considering this showing, the increase in the rates must not be forgotten. The only consolation is, of course, the obvious one that it might have been even worse.—Winnipeg Free Press.

A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN

"Then your daughter isn't going to buy a duke?" "Not just yet. I advised her to hold off awhile and for the same money we might get a king."

"Two solemn-looking gentlemen are riding together on a railway carriage. One gentleman says to the other, 'Is your wife entertaining this summer?'" "Whereupon the second gentleman replies: 'Not very.'"

Sabbath arriving home: "Well, dear, anything new happened today?" "Mrs. Sabbaths: 'The cook's gone.'"

Sabbaths: "I asked you if anything new happened." Boston Transcript.

Stimulating Interest. The Rector: "Don't you think you could interest your Woman's Club in the Bible?" Mrs. Wainup (obviously a Free thinker, Rector, but it's no use. It would help wonderfully, though, if you could get the matter to come here and give a few readings. Dick.

"My wife," said the tall, horn-rimmed man, "is as womanly a woman as you can find, but she can hammer nails like lightning."

"Wonderful!" sang the chorists. "Lightning," said the tall, horn-rimmed man continued, "is lightning strikes twice in the same place?"

"Don't you like the breast of the turkeys?" asked the host of the old lady. "I've never been able to find out," she responded. "When I was growing up the children always got the necks, so that the grown folks could have the choice parts. But since I have grown up things have changed and now the children get all the best pieces."

A large, slow-footed darkey was leaning against the corner of the railroad station in a Texas town when the noon whistle in a carning factory blew and the darkey hurried out, leaving their dirty baskets, the darkey hurried out, with his head on one side, and the racketing who had not died away. Then he heaved a deep sigh and remarked to himself: "I say, she's no dinner time for some folks, but she'll do for me!"

The young mother stole silently upstairs one evening, to be sure that her little son was sleeping safely. As she peeped at the door she saw her husband standing beside the crib, looking earnestly down at the sleeping child. Tears filled the mother's eyes, and she thought: "How dearly Frederick does love his boy!"

But just then she turned and saw her. "Amelie," he said, "I don't see how on earth they can get up a crib like this for three dollars and sixty cents?"

IF I COULD.

If the world were mine I would give to you One-half of the green and one-half of the blue; You should have of ocean and land and sky, Except as much, my good friend, as I.

If only the gold of the world were mine I would lump it all in its sheen and shine, And cutting the smallest coin in two, Divide, to a penny, my wealth with you.

If all life's good fortune were in my hold, On your path, my friend, it would soon unfold, Still should share with me in the things that bless Till naught could add to your happiness.

As I own no fraction of sea or land, And gold is never within my hand, I can only share, my good friend, with you The cheer of knowing what I would do.

—Lutana Sheldon in N. Y. Times.

WHEREWITHAL.

Spouditis is an ugly name. Mazuma, too, I've seen. And Kale's a term that means the same. And ditto is Long Green.

Then Cartwheels come as divers junk: "Ton Men" favors Jones. To Smith a thing costs one round Plunk—White Brown says "thirteen Bones."

One maiten fair sure has the Rocks. Another has the Tin; Some carry it within their Hose—Some save, some blow it in.

It all means money, true enough. From labor, theft, or gain—But ain't it awful handy stuff To have, in case of rain!

—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE.

The growing trade with South America, while slow, is along lines of safety first, and there is no stampede by business as might have been expected by some, when the war stopped shipments to a greater or less extent from England and France, and practically closed up German business with South American States.

While no time should be lost in putting in the missionary work necessary to opening a new field, not until the American banks are established in chief trading centres can there be safe trading on the large scale desired by American manufacturers.

A few large concerns controlling the shipping in New York are the factors to cultivate by all seeking to enter the South American field. Attempts to carry on much business direct have not been as satisfying as could be hoped for in a number of cases, and with rare exception the expenditure of money in publicity or distribution is wasted coin.

It is quite different from shipping a 50-cent order of goods to Chicago to break into the South American field. There is about 10 times the correspondence necessary in the first place, and then comes the special packaging, transportation problem and no end of detail that is overlooked in an entry into export business to South America. Fibre and Fabric.

The Beer nation has pronounced its own death sentence. By the hand of Ajax, Ajax has fallen. The splendid manhood of the Transvaal has been made enough to follow the lead of the wretched Botha, fought by English gold.

For the moment the brave Solomon Maritz has been provided in German Southwest Africa with the brilliant prospects which the English denied him in his own land. The time will come, however, and before long, when the disheartened patriot, at the head of a German army, will invade the Transvaal a second time, and help to resurrect the murdered Republic.

England, of course, brids herself on the vile wretch Louis Botha, the traitor and the grave-digger of his country. She is welcome to such as he. Her joy, however, will be short-lived. To that our staunch colonists in the southwest will see.—Hamburger Nachrichten.

ANGLO-AMERICAN FRICTION.

The last few weeks have brought to the surface of publicity a number of sharp points of friction between Great Britain and the United States. This is inevitable. What may and should be avoided, however, is the exaggeration of these differences and the growth of real tension and ill-feeling between nations which have been in peace and friendly intercourse for a century. That dangerous tension might develop is virtually unthinkable. But our desire is not limited to mere avoidance of dangerous complications. It is to maintain the friendliest relations with all the world and especially with those nations which are now going through the most terrible of ordeals. Exceptional consideration of the tremendous pressure of circumstances upon all the belligerents is due them, and the United States has no wish to take unfair advantage of their necessities to force from them hurtful concessions. Chicago Tribune.

The Day's Best Editorial

THE CALL TO YOUNG CANADA.

The response to the call for men for the third contingent in rural Ontario and in Quebec also, according to dispatches, has proved curiously disappointing to the recruiting officers. They have been engaged for almost three weeks in obtaining men, and in not a few cases the results have been such as to show that the call of the Empire falls upon unheeding ears. It would seem that outside of the larger centres of population the war is regarded as something remote and interesting only as a drama the action of which may be followed in the daily press.

It is time to wake up. "The Empire is fighting a life-and-death battle. British liberty is in danger. Canada's own national existence is in peril. What consideration could be expected in the event of a victory for German militarism, from the men who burned Lovain, who wrecked Rheims, and who are now slaying defenceless non-combatants with bombs dropped from the clouds by invisible murderers. The best of the cause would be heavy upon us, our souls would be no longer volunteers but conscripts. And there would be no help from our neighbors to the south. The United States would hardly care to challenge the might of the German powers were they to prove themselves stronger than Britain, France and Russia combined.

The people of Ontario lack neither courage nor national spirit. Their attitude is the result, in all probability, of a feeling that the Allies are bound to win, and that before the members of the third contingent can reach the front the issue will be decided. Upon no other hypothesis can the failure to respond to the call for recruits be accounted for.

What is the remedy? Clearly there is need for a campaign of education. The country requires information as to the causes of the war, the issues involved and the pressing need for men. The members of Parliament should be busy night after night in their constituencies, and at convenient centres, wherever audiences from the township can be gathered, public men of prominence like Sir Robert Borden, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir George Foster, Premier Harcourt and Mr. Rowell should be invited to speak to the people. The recruiting figures should put an end to party strife in Canada. Every man who can help to stir the public pulse and rouse the public conscience should be about his country's business instead of mending his party fences. The call comes clearest to young Canada. In the fight for freedom the Dominion turns to him confident that he will not hear uninvited the cry, "Your King and country need you!"—Toronto Globe.

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A GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

THE TIME TO BUILD.

Now is the time for any body who is contemplating new building and modernizing his existing buildings, if he has not the money on hand to do it, and content are to be had at better prices than the conditions for the employment of about 200,000 men favorable. People are everywhere saying that the United States is not going to give up a single inch of its territory, and that it will not be content with a mere peace, it should show signs of a permanent peace, and that something akin to a boom in building will be the result. Optimism is increasing, so rapidly that some industrial companies are saying they will not be in a position to meet the increased demand for their products that are foreseen in the future. Business and Mining Journal.

THE RIGHT OF SEARCH.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE FIRM.

New York, January 27.—An exceedingly firm ton was displayed during the morning trading in foreign exchange. The better tendency was generally explained by sale of stock here for London account, the Sterling—Cables 48 1/2 to 48 5/8, demand 48 1/2 to 48 1/4.

Princes—Cables 51 1/2, demand 51 1/2. Marks—Cables 87 1/2-16, demand 87 1/2.

SALES AT NEW YORK.

New York, January 27.—Sales of stocks 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to-day 288,603; Tuesday 118,821, Monday 134,650; Bonds to-day \$2,046,000; Tuesday \$1,851,000; Monday \$1,772,500.

BANK OF MONTREAL

(Established 1817) INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT CAPITAL paid up - - - - - \$16,000,000.00 REST. - - - - - 15,000,000.00 UNDIVIDED PROFITS. - - - - - 1,232,683.42

Head Office—MONTREAL

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IN MEXICO: Mexico, D. F.

UNION BANK OF CANADA

DIVIDEND No. 112

NOTICE is hereby given that a dividend at the rate of eight per cent, per annum upon the Paid-up Capital Stock of the UNION BANK OF CANADA has been declared for the current quarter, and that the same will be payable at the Bank of Montreal, 120, King Street West, and at its Branches on and after the 15th day of March next.

A bonus of 1 per cent, approved by the shareholders at the last Annual General Meeting, will be paid at the same time, and those in possession of shares of record at the close of business on the thirtieth day of February, 1915, shall be entitled thereto.

The transfer books will be closed from the 15th to the 20th of February, 1915, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board, G. H. BAL FOUR, General Manager, Winnipeg, 22nd January, 1915.

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STEEL SOLD DOWN

MORE THAN \$7.

In Gutter Market at New York Common Brought as Low as \$144 a Share

MANY SELLING ORDERS

On New York Exchange It Was Estimated at 100 That As Many as 50,000 Shares Had Accumulated

New York, January 27.—United States Steel was the pivot around which the stock market swung to-day, owing to the unexpected action of directors in omitting dividends. That they did this in this step Wall Street concerned at just the last quarter of 1914, and constituted the last three months sharp also thought they discerned an action a belief in the Steel Corporation management that actual improvement in business has been today and would continue so for some time to come.

When the opening gong sounded on the Stock Exchange there was great excitement around the post as there was an overnight accumulation of selling orders.

This was estimated to have totalled 50,000 shares, but it was impossible to sell more than 800 at the opening, owing to lack of demand at 148, the minimum price established by the Exchange.

That this minimum would be lowered was the real opinion.

Steel preferred a 7 per cent, stock, sold down within one point of its minimum price during morning session.