

## MAPLE LEAVES.

By R. E. WODEHOUSE.

The cycle of life which provides for the growth of the maple tree, is most interesting. Season upon season, the sap of life is sent up to assist the buds to break forth in spring. The leaves formed, make their appearance in delicate shades of green, maturing with age and sunlight into rich deep greens, showing evidence of function and health. As the summer matures, the mother tree has been aided in many ways by these numerous respirators. Soon they are to reach the twilight of their existence. The early frosts are welcomed by them, as without these frosts the greatest joy of their living would be lost. The chlorophyll or coloring matter present in them, takes on a wonderful change, assuming under the influence of these nippy visitors a most glorious and varying array of gold and bright red colors.

This would appear to be a triumphant climax, sent as a reward for their excellent service to the mother tree. Withdrawal of the sap down towards the roots of the mother plant, causes desquamation of these brilliant members and their span of life is brought to a worthy end.

Not so happy are those leaves which are unfortunate enough to have been assigned to the twigs forming the terminals of injured and diseased limbs. If one observes the leaves near the webbed areas or included in these areas, now altogether too common in our trees, it will be noted, that they turn pale yellow early in the season, fail to mature as to size, compared with their other more fortunately located fellows. Deprived of the privilege of completing their life function in which they were so happily engaged they die. They are bereft of the glorious climax of color display the early frosts had in store for them. These small colonies of leaves scattered among the different large branches rather suggest neglect on the part of someone. Neglect in permitting some enemy to locate in their leaf community and live at the expense of the useful happy lives of the leaves concerned. The mother tree, of necessity, must lose the assistance those happy leaf citizens contributed to its welfare and further has its beauty, as a tree, defaced by these unsightly evidences of disease uncontrolled.

Surely each community should search out the people in its bounds developing disease, who early in life have to desist from the happiness they derive from working for the welfare of all. It is our duty to create and support the agencies for this work. Public Health Nurses, Health Centres, Chest Diagnostic Clinic, with expert medical attendants, Medical Inspection of School Children, Nutritional and fresh air classes for pupils needing same and sufficiently large treatment institutions, provided with sheltered employment schemes for the convalescents, are needed. These agents are quite applicable to the population outside the cities. Particularly should we do more to assist our fellows, infected with tuberculosis, by finding out they are infected, before the disease has advanced to a point of permanent debility. It is possible, it is feasible, and it is economical. Why not do our utmost to have more Canadians complete their natural years of happy service and grow up to the Golden Twilight of three-score years and ten?

## REPORT OF BANK OF MONTREAL EXCELLENT PROOF OF SOUNDNESS OF CANADA'S FINANCIAL POSITION Total Assets Now Stand at \$517,403,162 — Liquid Assets Equal to 62% of Total Liabilities to Public — Indications Worst Period of Reconstruction Has Been Passed.

An excellent proof of the essential soundness of Canada's financial position is to be found in the annual statement of the Bank of Montreal, just issued. As everybody knows, the year has been an exceedingly trying one in business all over the world, and although Canada has not experienced anything like the distress that many other countries have had to contend with, yet the general unsettlement which has accompanied this period of deflation has had a marked effect on the trade of the Dominion, and sharp declines in bank clearings have been a feature of the official monthly reports.

In view of this situation, the Bank of Montreal is to be congratulated not only on maintaining its traditionally strong liquid position, but on increasing its total of immediately available assets from \$289,146,508.34 a year ago to \$290,896,296.51 at the present time. The significance of these figures is apparent when considered in relation to the fact that in the period under review the Bank's liabilities have decreased by \$42,747,650.16.

This, however, is not the only evidence of the actual strengthening of the Bank's reserves in a period of unusual stress. The ratio of call and time loans to the total deposits has also materially improved in the Bank's favor. Thus whereas a year ago the total deposits exceeded the call and time loans by \$96,240,135.27, to-day the total deposits exceed the call and time loans by \$107,974,115.36.

In view of the deflation which has been in progress in business generally, the decline in deposits not bearing interest from \$111,739,215.02 to \$88,618,100.57 must be considered very moderate. The amount of savings deposits are a very encouraging feature of the report. They stand at \$317,935,871.38, as compared with \$322,578,613.54 a year ago, a difference of only \$4,642,744.16. As compared with the figures in the Bank's statement for the half year ending April 30 last, the present total of savings deposits is even more satisfactory, as they show an increase of \$7,089,384.13 for the half-year just closed.

### Growth of Assets.

The general statement of assets and liabilities shows total assets of \$517,403,162.69, as compared with \$507,199,946.49 on April 30 last.

The improvement which is revealed in the latter part of the fiscal year just closed is gratifying evidence of a general steadying in financial conditions after the violent reactions of the earlier period, and give good ground for hope that the worst period in after-war reconstruction has been passed.

It is evident that the conservative policy of the Bank has enabled it to come through the trying period without unusual losses, and with the maintenance of the general level of profits. Despite the fact that a full year's interest has been paid on the increased capital, as compared with interest on the additional amount for the last half of the previous year, only the full dividend of 12 per cent. has been maintained, as well as a bonus of 2 per cent. The profits for the year amounted to \$3,949,796.58, compared with \$4,033,995 in the previous year.