

# In the World of Finance

## CASH ACCOUNTS BETWEEN CANADA AND BRITAIN.

An Imperial Treasury statement gives the total cash advances to the Canadian Government, besides advances for which Dominion bonds have been issued, as £79,000,000 on March 31 of last year. Cash advances by the Dominion Government, apart from certain accounts still under consideration at the same date, were \$484,349,927, making, with interest, \$506,145,731. It has been agreed that sums due from the Dominion Government will be set off against corresponding amounts due from the Imperial Government.

## G. T. P. MEETS OBLIGATION.

The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, according to advices from London, has met the maturing obligation of interest on its bonds, and the report widely circulated here and somewhat anticipated by the Government, proves unfounded. During the year the Government has been helping out the company on the basis of the parliamentary grant, but when negotiations looking to purchase proved abortive, notice was given the company it must look after its own financial fences. If the company had defaulted and in many circles such was the anticipation, it would have been a lever in accomplishing the broader scheme of national ownership. But it has "dug up" the money, so the railway situation remains as it was. So long as the company is able to meet its maturing obligations it cannot be compelled to sell out. As the two ends are in the United States it cannot be expropriated, and the conditions under which willingness to sell are expressed are such that the Government cannot entertain.

## EDMONTON'S FINANCES.

Western cities and their plans are of interest to Eastern investors at present. On behalf of Edmonton it is contended that the city has been merely too enthusiastic for a city of 50,000, according to Alex. Livingstone, Secretary of the Civic Forum. "Our enthusiasm," he says, "led us to construct utilities such as would meet the needs of 200,000 population. Our total assets," he goes on, "consisting of lands, buildings, properties and utilities are \$32,000,000. Our total debt is in the neighborhood of \$22,000,000. Current liabilities are fully secured by the tax arrears. Our tax arrears are not all tied up in outside properties. Witness the fact that within a radius of one mile from the postoffice the property in arrears is assessed at \$10,000,000, while our total tax arrears are \$6,000,000".

"When you take into consideration that our assessment has been reduced from \$192,000,000 to \$76,000,000, you will realize that we are well protected in the matter of tax arrears. Our city is endeavoring to secure legislation to permit the offering to delinquents the privilege of paying off their tax arrears over 10 years, providing they undertake to pay promptly all current taxes, accompanied by the request that failure to pay current year's taxes will be met with a rigid tax sale, with a very short, if any, redemption period."

Reports come from the Canadian High Commissioner's Office in London that no person should travel to the British Isles unless they intend to remain there for a very considerable period, or unless their business is imperative, as they will be unable to secure return passage.

## U. S. CREDIT FOR BELGIUM.

Formal announcement has been made in New York of the completion of negotiations by a syndicate of bankers headed by the Guaranty Trust Company, J. P. Morgan & Co., National Bank of Commerce and National City Bank for the establishment of a commercial export credit in New York of \$50,000,000 for a consortium of Belgium banks. About seventy Belgium banks, with an aggregate reserve in excess of \$150,000,000, are in the arrangement. They include the Banque Nationale de Belgique. The proceeds of the credit will be used to provide funds in America to purchase American supplies for re-establishing reconstruction operations in Belgium.

## CURRENCY IN THE YUGO-SLAV STATE.

The Berlin correspondent of Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant writes that according to an Order issued in the Yugo-Slav State, the Austrian krone is to be replaced within eight days by the dinar and exchanged at the rate of three kronen per dinar. The import prohibition for new kronen has caused a great panic in financial circles in Vienna. The Czech Minister of Finance has also held an enquiry as to the amount of available kronen, presumably with the intention of exchanging them for francs. The Austro-Hungarian Bank has called a meeting of the Directors to protest against this violation of a privilege which was to be valid up to the end of 1919. Protests are being raised in Vienna against the fact that German Austria is the last State to change its currency. It is deemed necessary to change it immediately to that of the mark, as in all probability German Austria will be incorporated with Germany, and the mark stands higher abroad than the krone.

## INDIA'S FINANCES GOOD.

The estimated revenue for India during the financial year of 1919-1920 is £86,225,400, and it is believed there will be a surplus of £168,100 at the end of that period, according to a statement submitted in the Viceroy's Legislative Council by Sir James S. Meston, representative of India at the Imperial War Conference. In view of the high prices which prevail at present, he said, the British Government has decided to raise the limit for those liable to income tax in India from 1,000 rupees to 2,000 rupees.

The principal feature in contemplation during the coming year by the Indian War Office is a provision for an appropriation of £25,000 for railroad building. There will also be large appropriations for education. Sir James pointed out that India's control of raw materials placed her in a position of exceptional strength. The crisis in India relative to silver currency during the past year was referred to by Sir James in the course of his statement. He pointed out that there was need for sounder currency habits in India, and said that if the absorption of silver was unrestricted it might become physically impossible to purchase enough of the metal. He pointed out that even if silver was obtainable, the demand might force the price to a giddy height and throw into confusion the entire exchange policy.

The Bankers and Shippers Insurance Company, a new million dollar company, has been formed in New York to write marine and fire risks.

## NEW MOLSON'S DIRECTOR.

At a meeting of the board of directors of Molsons Bank held last week, M. J. M. McIntyre was elected a director to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. George E. Drummond.

## MEXICAN LOAN TO BE FLOATED.

The recent action of the Carranza Government to recognize the Huerta loans as valid debts of Mexico holds out some prospect of a Mexican debt being floated in the United States with the approval of the Federal Government. "It is understood," says the New York "Journal of Commerce," "that financial representatives of the Mexican Government are to visit the United States to confer with bankers and creditors, to whom will be submitted a proposition for the conversion of outstanding obligations if the new loan is put through."

Official statements made by President Carranza place the amount of the Mexican public debt in 1910 at about 450,000,000 pesos, to which is added the loan contracted by the Madero Government in New York, amounting to 100,000,000 pesos. The approximate amount of interest due on April 1st of this year, no interest having been paid since May, 1914, would be 150,000,000 pesos. Thus the total of the three amounts places the actual indebtedness of the Mexican Government at 700,000,000 pesos, or 47 pesos per capita.

## Business Gone A-Begging Inquiries for Canadian Products.

The following trade inquiries for Canadian products have been received by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, to which applications for the names of the firms and supplementary details, should be made:—

Maple Syrup—Agency desired in Ireland.

Food Products—Representative for Belgium at Liege.

Binder Twine—Scottish firm wishes to get in touch with manufacturers.

Canned Goods—London firm with branch at Bordeaux.

Pulp—Manchester firm. Large quantities for export.

Lard—Swansea.

Toys, hay, canned goods, cheese, butter, bacon, hams, lard and substitutes—Bristol firms.

Ready Made Doors, tomato catsup, dried peas, canned goods, (milk and salmon). — Cardiff firms.

Wood Soles, clogs, half leather soles, boot laces, clog irons, boots and shoes—Plymouth, Eng.

Canned Fruits, vegetables, rolled oats, oatmeal, macaroni, vermicelli, dried fruits—Newport, Eng.

Honey, Maple sugar, syrup, fruit, pulp boards, grocery, oil, drysaltery goods, corset steels (busks or clasps), suspender fittings—Bristol firms.

Hairpin Wire—Gloucestershire.

Wood pulp, phosphate rock, arsenic, appetite rock, bones and general residue, iron ore, ochre, minerals, pastry boards, washboards, carpet sweepers, clothes pegs, broom stocks and handles—Plymouth firms.

Canadian Maple Flooring—Gloucestershire.

Flour, boots and shoes, cotton goods, hosiery, butter and cheese, rings and jewellery, clocks—Barbados.

Paper and raw furs—Lyons, France.

Raw materials and industrial articles—Lille.

Tools and agricultural implements, raw feathers—Paris, France.

Douglas Fir—Holland.

Soda Ash—Yokohama.

Caustic Soda—Japan.

Motor-car sundries—Tokyo.

Shovels and barbed wire—St. John's, Newfoundland.