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THE MONETARY TIMES. TORONTO.

caused in different countries by employing bank resources in discounts resting upon land or fixed property, the speaker said: "My opinion is, however, that there is far less of this kind of thing than there ever was before, and for this reason, that bankers have gained a vast amount of experience during the last thirty years, and that the present generation of bankers, as a whole, thoroughly understand this dangerous element of their business." "During the last three years of great expansion our discounts have increased \$29,000,000, but our foreign trade increased \$36,000,000, and this is a sample of what has been going on for years. I am well aware that advances may not all be sound that rest on merchandise; and, in fact, take any kind of such advances that you please, there is a certain proportion of them that are likely to have some element of unsoundness in them. Mercantile articles constantly fluctuate in value, and leakage of unsound accounts will occur in every merchant's business. But I do not think up to the present there is as much as would cause serious embarrassment to banks, whatever they might do to the mercantile community; and there is. I am sure, far less of recklessness in trade than there formerly was. Supply accounts are very much fewer, and on a much more restricted scale than formerly. Our exports are now mostly on the basis of sales, instead of goods being sent on consignment to take the risk of the market. Credit in the wholesale trade is far better understood than formerly, and on the whole, manufacturing is carried on more conservatively than formerly, though, no doubt, there is something to be learned yet."

The veteran banker closed with some warning words as to the signs of future commercial and financial trouble of which one of the first would be a bad harvest. And as a stockholder in the Merchants' Bank of Canada, he expressed the hope and desire that the affairs of the Merchants' Bank might be so conducted as to show continuous and solid advancement in every department year after year.

MR. J. A. Robinson, representing a Montreal syndicate, has purchased the Caroline & Hastings claims at the head of Whitewater Creek in the Slocan district, from which samples of asbestos existing in deposits of soap stone or steatite are said to promise good results if developed.

MR. B. FRIEL, who is about to build a flour mill at Nelson, B.C., offers to build one also at Kamloops with a capacity of 100 barrels per day if the city will give a free site, exempt the property from taxation for a term of years, and lend \$5,000 free of interest for five years.

THE New Brunswick Petroleum Company has commenced torpedoing the wells at St. Joseph's College. A well 800 feet deep was nitro-glycerined but no results are visible. Boring still consinues at Hillsboro, one well being 1,400 feet deep. Oil sands are being struck in two or three places.

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