

would have to be revised to adjust the commission to accord with the system. The commission on short term endowments would have to be decreased or that on long term policies increased. Moreover, in most practicable premium rates, the higher premiums contribute a larger sum to expenses, and as greater inducements to procure longer term policies would naturally result in such policies forming a larger proportion of the new business, the average premium would be reduced and the contribution to expenses would be smaller.

## Notes on Business.

### New Issues in London.

THE CHRONICLE has frequently warned promoters and others who take issues to the London market, of the necessity of consulting the convenience of that market and of the undesirability of attempting to make flotations when the market and the British investor are not in a position to digest them. It has been evident for some time past, both from the advices of our own London correspondent and from other sources, that London is at the present time in a congested condition as regards new securities and that it is essential that time should be given for recent issues to be properly absorbed, before others are put upon the market in quantities. It has to be borne in mind that the public capital applications in London last year amounted to the enormous sum of £267,439,100 and that this output of new securities came largely at a time when the absorbing power of investors in Great Britain was less than usual, owing to the incidence of the rubber "boom" last year. And issues have continued on a large scale during the current year, the total to the beginning of the present month being little short of £107,000,000. Of this amount, Canada has been responsible for some £17,000,000, almost the whole of which was issued during the months of March, April and May. Many recent issues in London, both of Canadian and other securities, have been failures. The following table of the fate of some of them is instructive:—

	Amt. issued.	Price.	Left with under- writers
Winnipeg 4 p.c.....	£ 900,000	100	73%
Norwegian Govt. 4 p.c.....	2,200,000	100½	84
Cuban Ports 5 p.c.....	6,000,000	97½	80
Associated Cement 5 p.c.....	600,000	94	75
San Antonio Land 6 p.c.....	1,200,000	99	97½

It is to be hoped that for a short time there will be a cessation of new Canadian issues in London; the effect will be beneficial.

### The Birkbeck Bank Failure.

The principal reason for the failure of the Birkbeck Bank in London, allusion to which was made in a Business Note last week, appears to have been, as then stated, the depreciation in Consols and other high grade securities. The usually well-informed London financial correspondent of the New York Evening Post cables with regard to this matter:—"The Birkbeck had more than one hundred thousand depositors, mostly people of small means. It had been honestly managed, but it got into trouble because of the heavy depreciation of Consols and kindred securities in which its funds were invested. A quite insufficient amount had been devoted by the management to writ-

ing off depreciation. Probably the bank will pay in liquidation seventeen shillings in the pound. Other banks have already arranged to advance ten shillings in the pound to the depositors, and the event is not likely to cause disturbance in floating credits unless the trouble spreads. It is impossible, however, wholly to ignore the fact that the causes lying behind the depreciation in home stocks which caused the failure, still continue." The correspondent adds that the Government has at length become sufficiently disquieted on the subject of the continued depreciation of Consols—which have been again below 80—as to have decided on supporting the market for them.

### Field Crops in Canada.

A Bulletin of the Census and Statistics Office states that the season this year has been favourable for field crops in all parts of Canada, and excellent reports have been received from all the provinces. The lowest percentage of condition is made for fall wheat, which suffered from inadequate protection in the winter months, and also to some extent from spring frosts. The areas of fall wheat are greater than last year by 4.50 per cent. and of spring wheat by 13.70 per cent. The total area in wheat is 10,503,400 acres, as compared with 9,294,800 in 1910 and 7,750,400 in 1909. The per cent. condition of fall wheat at the end of May was 80.63, and of spring wheat 96.69. The area in oats is 10,279,800 acres and its condition 94.70, as compared with 9,864,100 acres and 93.95 per cent. condition last year. Barley and rye each show a small decrease in area, but the condition is higher than at the same period last year. Slight decreases are also reported for areas of peas, mixed grains, and hay and clover, with per cent. condition of over 90. Hay and clover have a reported condition of 91.45 for the Dominion, being practically 100 in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The area of the field crops named is 32,051,500 acres for 1911, compared with 30,554,200 acres for 1910 and 28,194,900 acres for 1909. In the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta the area in wheat, oats and barley was 3,491,413 acres in 1900, 6,009,389 acres in 1905, 11,952,000 acres in 1909, and 13,809,300 acres in 1910, and it is 15,355,500 acres this year. The increase of these crops from 1900 to 1911 was 2,663,609 acres in Manitoba, 7,364,315 acres in Saskatchewan and 1,836,073 acres in Alberta.

### Security Values.

The usual monthly compilation by the London Bankers Magazine of the aggregate value of 387 securities dealt in on the London Stock Exchange shows the insignificant decrease of £282,000, or 0.008 per cent. for May, following an increase of £18,942,000, or 0.5 per cent., for April. British and Indian funds decreased £5,778,000, or 0.8 per cent.; Home rails are £4,461,000 lower, equal to 1.5 per cent.; Africans are £1,001,000 lower, or 2.4 per cent., while Americans increased £12,930,000, or 3.3 per cent., and foreign government funds decreased £2,868,000, equal to 0.3 per cent. Thus the rise in Americans counteracted all other declines. The detailed comparisons are:—

Aggregate value of 387 representative securities on May 20, 1911.....	£3,724,602,000
Aggregate value of 387 representative securities on April 20, 1911.....	3,724,884,000
Decrease.....	£282,000