WITH THE TRUSTS COMPANIES.

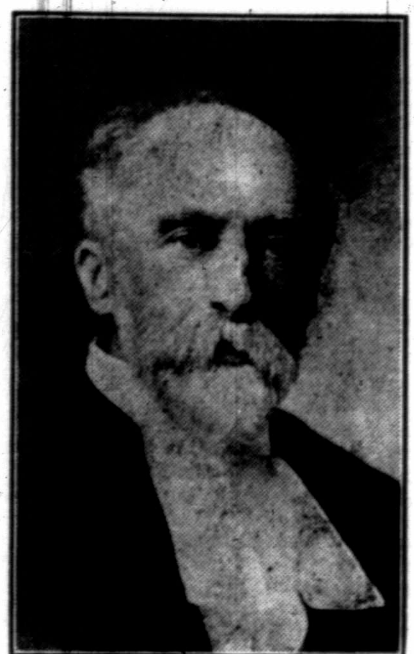
New British Corporation Seeks Business—Abuse of the Word "Trusts"—Mr. Justice Osler's Financial Presidency.

The Dominion of Canada Trust Corporation, Limited, recently made an issue in London of 400,000 ordinary shares of £1 each. The capital of the Company is £500,000 and its object is to carry on business in Canada and to facilitate the placing of sound Canadian investments on the British and continental market. It will act as trustee for bond and debenture issues, and as agent for the payment of coupons, etc. It will engage in the business of an investment and trust company generally. The capital is divided into 495,000 ordinary shares of £1 each and 100,000 deferred shares of 1 shilling each.

Holders of Ordinary and Deferred Shares.

The holders of the ordinary shares for the time being issued are entitled to receive a fixed cumulative dividend of 10 per cent. per annum on the capital for the time being paid up or credited as paid up thereon, and are entitled to participate rateably in 50 per cent. of the surplus profits which shall be distributed by way of dividend.

The holders of deferred shares will receive rateably 50 per cent. of all the surplus profits, distributed by way of dividend after provision of 10 per cent. for the ordinary shares as above, and as regards the return of capital, the ordinary shares shall rank in priority to the deferred shares, and after the ordinary and deferred shares have been paid the surplus shall be divided equally between the two classes.



MR. JUSTICE OSLER.

Prospects of the Business.

The directorate includes Sir Frederick Borden, the Earl of Denbigh, Mr. J. Howard, the agent-general in London for Nova Scotia, and Mr. J. Radine, a French banker. The directors rightly believe that Canada offers now, and will continue to offer for an indefinite time to come, exceptional opportunities for remunerative investment under conditions that will bear comparison with those existing in any part of the world. In addition to state and municipal loans, there is much profitable business to be done in connection with the financing of numerous branches of the main lines of railway, which has been of so lucrative a nature in the neighbouring United States of America.

Trusts Companies and Others.

The multiplication of so-called trust companies in Western Canada leads one to question if the title is not being frequently mis-used. Many kinds of investment concerns, forgetting entirely the proper aims and objects of a trusts company, seem to have adopted that name. This is obviously unfair to themselves, to the public and to companies carrying on legitimate work along their particular lines. It will be recollected that Mr. J. W. Langmuir, managing-director of the Toronto General Trusts Corporation, recently spoke strongly on this point. Not a few trust companies in the United States, he said, are simply organizations for speculative business, possessing in many cases nearly all the functions of banks, without their restrictions. So pronounced is this feature that steps are being taken in some States to place restrictive limitations on trust companies of this kind. As an illustration and warning respecting this class of trust companies, we have only to look at what took place during the recent crisis in the United States, when companies known and designated as "trust" companies, but which were really promoters, underwriters and organizers of land and other syndicates of one kind or another, for the transaction of all kinds of speculative work, went to the wall with an immense loss of trust funds.

Legislation Was Suggested.

Companies of this kind may be, and in many cases undoubtedly are, necessary in procuring capital for the promotion and carrying on of great public and industrial works but, most people will agree with Mr. Langmuir's contention that such companies should not be entrusted with the administration of estates and trusts lasting for long periods.

Mr. Langmuir suggested at the time, that before such a system took strong root in Canada, statutory provisions should be enacted discriminating between banking and speculative trust companies and those who confine themselves strictly to the administration of estates and trusts.

New President for Toronto General.

Mr. Justice Osler retired from the bench of the Court of Appeal of Ontario on Monday. He has acted as Judge of the High Court of Justice and the Court of Appeal for more than thirty-one years, and now becomes president of the Toronto General Trusts Corporation. His retirement was made the occasion of an appreciative farewell by the bar and the bench this week. In replying to many kind expressions, Mr. Osler said: "I have during my connection with the Bench striven to live up to the high standard I set for myself on accepting a position on it. I feel it a high honor to be allowed to leave it, not in cold silence of the most critical profession in the world, but with their approval as you have expressed it."

The Brandon Trust Company, which recently commenced business, obtained the issue of Boissevain debentures.

ANOTHER OIL COMPANY

Is Causing Dissension Among Promoters and Shareholders—Stock of Atlantic Oil and Its Value.

According to a despatch from Portage La Prairie there is dispute in the investigating camp of the Atlantic Oil Company. Shareholders of this enterprise, says the message, are taking action in regard to conflicting reports as to the value of the company's wells in the Republic of Colombia, South America, brought back by a deputation sent to investigate. One of the members of this deputation was Mr. James J. Jeffries of Portage la Prairie, and his report was very pessimistic. Mr. M. D. Coltman, of Toronto, who organized the company, and who was also a member of the Investigating Committee, takes decided issue with Jeffries and attended the meeting for the purpose of contradicting his report.

Disagreement as to Value.

The affair developed into a heated discussion between Messrs. Jeffries and Coltman. The result of the whole affair is that the local shareholders are in a quandary, and nothing definite has yet been decided.

The Atlantic Oil Company was organized in Toronto in 1906 and incorporated under the Ontario Companies Act. The present directors and officers are the Honorable Clifford Sifton, Messrs. J. Bain and J. Sifton Ottawa; J. A. Burgess, W. Strathy, E. Coste, M. E. and L. M. Heal, Toronto; and Hon. R. M. Palacio, Colombia, South America. The company's capital is $2,000,000 divided into 20,000 with par value of a hundred dollars.

Has Discouraged Dealing in the Stock.

The Monetary Times has made inquiry in authoritative quarters regarding this company and learns that it is not possible at present to give any information which will lead to a definite conclusion respecting the value of the company's stock. It owns a considerable quantity of oil rights in Colombia, operations have been proceeding for the last year and a half and much money has been expended in development.

While the property is reported to look promising it will be some little time yet before definite results will be announced. We believe that Mr. Clifford Sifton, who has the control of the management, has endeavored to discourage all dealing in the stock of the company. Some stock has been sold by persons who were stockholders before he acquired his interests. Mr. Sifton has no control over such sales nor any responsibility for them. In view of these facts the stock is obviously purely speculative and highly so.

A public meeting of Westmount Que., ratepayers will be shortly held for the purpose of discussing and voting on a by-law asking permission to convert certain bonds of the city from Canadian to English money, so as to allow of them being floated on the English market.