

GOOD CROPS WILL STIMULATE BORROWING

Western Provinces and Municipalities in Need of Funds—
Commercial Outlook at the Coast(Special to *The Monetary Times*.)

Winnipeg, July 21, 1920.

SPLENDID rains have fallen in Manitoba and throughout the West in the last 24 hours. In Winnipeg and vicinity it has been raining steadily for 12 hours. Rain was badly needed in many localities and will be worth millions to the country.

In Alberta for the most part the crop outlook is good. The special correspondents of the "Calgary Herald" from a large number of centres in Alberta all point to satisfactory prospects. In some cases it is stated that the present appearance of wheat and oats, as well as other cereals and grasses, is the best for years. At Irricana for instance, farmers are assured of a crop similar to the famous yield of 1915, while at Delia and Bessiker, 50 per cent. of the wheat has now headed out. Many of the correspondents state that in places where the ground is of a sandy nature there is ample moisture to carry the crops to harvest.

With the outlook for good crops in Western Canada this fall, the bond business is certain to be brisk. If the crops are good, there will be plenty of money for investment, and the provinces and municipalities, almost all of which are in urgent need of funds, will have their opportunity. A similar opportunity will be presented to Canadian companies of all kinds, which are looking for funds for their undertakings. At present the investment business is quiet.

A. L. Crossin, of the firm of Oldfield, Kirby & Gardiner returned this week from the Pacific Coast, and is well satisfied with the general financial conditions of British Columbia. "The tourist traffic," he said, "has become in recent years quite a factor in the business life of Vancouver. Some lines of costly goods can be bought in Vancouver more cheaply than in the United States and the volume of trade from this source is considerable. In connection with agriculture, deeper interest is being taken in the fruit raising and the sale of this product has now reached real commercial importance. Retail trade in Vancouver is brisk and the general commercial prospects are quite satisfactory."

JUNE BANK STATEMENT

Advance figures of the June bank statement show that current loans increased more than \$16,000,000, while savings deposits advanced about \$15,000,000, as compared with the previous month. Other principal changes are as follows:—

	June, 1920.	Changes from May, 1920.
Reserve fund	\$ 128,675,000	+ \$ 100,000
Note circulation	227,775,253	+ 1,440,216
Demand deposits	659,622,583	+ 13,665,334
Notice deposits	1,243,700,977	+ 14,627,462
Total deposits in Canada	1,903,323,560	+ 28,292,796
Deposits elsewhere	360,358,386	+ 15,262,911
Current coin	80,964,285	+ 765,685
Dominion notes	173,691,988	+ 1,623,421
Deposits, central gold reserve	100,400,000	— 7,650,000
Call loans in Canada	115,272,587	— 3,841,906
Call loans outside	219,214,431	+ 5,250,249
Current loans in Canada	1,365,151,083	+ 16,071,102
Current loans outside	184,328,464	+ 342,242
Total liabilities	2,811,158,772	+ 7,681,495
Total assets	3,091,674,511	+ 10,991,711

A complete statement of the June figures will be published in the next issue of *The Monetary Times*.

The head office of the Sovereign Life Assurance Company, Winnipeg, has been moved from 707 Canada Building to 300-301 Boyd Building, Portage Ave.

VANCOUVER STOCK EXCHANGE

At the annual general meeting of the Vancouver Stock Exchange, held on July 13th, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, C. M. Oliver; vice-president, C. G. Pennock; honorary treasurer, S. W. Miller; honorary secretary, A. E. Jukes. Committee of management—H. J. Thorne, J. T. MacGregor and A. N. Wolverton.

The retiring president, Major G. Ivor Gwynn, reviewed the affairs of the exchange during the past year, which were shown to be in a very satisfactory condition, the total value of bonds traded in having increased over 100 per cent. and the value of shares dealt in having increased over 50 per cent.

UNLICENSED AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

In a circular issued on July 20th, G. D. Finlayson, Dominion superintendent of insurance, calls attention to the fact that insurance on automobiles, as well as on real property, cannot be solicited by unlicensed companies. The circular says:—

"It has been drawn to the attention of the department that a considerable amount of insurance is being effected on automobiles in Canada in British or foreign companies or underwriters not licensed under the Insurance Act.

"Such insurance on automobiles is subject to the same requirements as insurance on real property in unlicensed insurance companies, and is permitted only if effected outside of Canada, and without any solicitation whatever, directly or indirectly, on the part of the company or underwriters; otherwise, any person inspecting the risk or adjusting the loss in Canada is subject to the provisions of the Criminal Code.

"Every person so insuring an automobile is required to make a return thereof to the department, the forms for which can be obtained on request."

LONDON ASSURANCE BI-CENTENNIAL

English insurance companies were the pioneers in the field of modern insurance, and their leadership in the United Kingdom and in the foreign field has been well maintained during the past two hundred years. This is illustrated by the records of such old companies as the London Assurance, which has just completed two hundred years of business. The interval has witnessed many changes in methods of writing insurance and in the field of finance as a whole.

While stray cases of insurance were found previous to this date, it was not until around 1720 that it was organized as a systematic business. The London Assurance arose out of a marine insurance scheme started in 1719. In 1721 it was authorized to write fire and life as well. The authorized capital was £1,500,000, of which £896,550 was subscribed. The shares fluctuated in value during the first year from as low as £12 to as high as £160. Prospective insurers were examined by the board of directors, and if the risk was considered good, the premium for one year was accepted. In 1720 the income from marine insurance was £9,740; in 1917 it was £1,743,928. In 1721 the income from fire was £570, compared with £1,231,617 in 1918. The corresponding figures for life insurance show a rise from £170 to £247,386. Canada is one of the fields into which the London Assurance first expanded, a Dominion license having been secured in 1862. The joint managers in Canada are W. Kennedy and W. B. Colley.

The Directors of the London Joint City & Midland Bank Limited, have announced an interim dividend for the past half year at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum less income tax, payable on the 15th instant. The dividend for the corresponding period last year was at the same rate.