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Book Review

Notes on Foreign Exchange, and a Financial Glossary. By E. L. Stewart Patterson. 236 pages. Published by the Shaw Correspondence School, Toronto).

As Mr. Stewart Patterson points out in the preface to this volume many excellent books have been published on the subject of Foreign Exchange, but few have been written for beginners explaining in simple language the essential principles involved in the science. Moreover, none has been written from a Canadian standpoint; and Mr. Patterson is to be congratulated upon having met a long felt need among Canadian bankers, business men and students of international finance, in supplying them with his treatise on this subject.

Mr. Patterson modestly maintains that his book is not to be considered as a comprehensive treatise on the subject of Foreign Exchange, although practically every phase of the subject has been dealt with. It was his intention to produce, rather, a helpful book for the beginner; and one that would be a useful companion to the advanced student in his study of the larger and more purely theoretical works on the subject. At the same time it must be admitted that Mr. Patterson has most comprehensively dealt with the whole field of Foreign Exchange, and has omitted hardly anything of essential value.

The author has elucidated, first of all, the principles of exchange, leading up to international exchange after an introductory discussion of Inland and New York Exchange. He explains clearly and concisely how exchange rates are made; and clears up many of the minor but vexatious difficulties that cross the path of the beginner in his first attempts to master the intricacies of this phase of the subject. He gives also a most excellent chapter on "A Day in an Exchange Box", in which are rapidly surveyed the various questions that come up in a practical way to the young banker or broker. A very incisive and intelligent treatment of exchange problems in Great Britain and in Continental Europe is also presented; and many important questions such as London Quotations, American Quotations, French Quotations, interest, and so forth, are discussed. His treatment of the exchange situation in Germany and in the Netherlands, Austria-Hungary, Russia and the Scandinavian Union, is both illuminating and instructive. The reviewer found Chapter VIII. of especial value, dealing as it does with the great exchange centres of the world, the money situation in Australasia and India, the silver exchanges and paper exchanges.

Among other subjects that are dealt with by Mr. Patterson are arbitrage, gold shipments, London, the international clearing house of the world, and the effects of the war upon the exchange situation in Great Britain and North America. A wealth of material of the most essential value is presented in appendices; while a very useful glossary of financial terms is also appended.

Mr. Patterson is to be congratulated upon having won another distinct success in his investigations into and in his presentation of, financial problems of both a theoretical and practical nature. The present volume is one which will sustain and enhance the very high reputation won by Mr. Patterson when he published his first work on "Practical Banking and Foreign Exchange". Unfortunately there are very few men either in the United Kingdom, in Canada or the United States, who combine a knowledge of practical financial affairs with the ability to elucidate for others the various problems that arise in the field of finance. Mr. Paterson is one of the rare exceptions, and deserves the utmost credit for having prepared this volume for Canadian students of international finance. We are glad to recommend it heartily and without reservation as being one of the best works which we have seen on this difficult but fascinating subject.-W. W. Swanson.

SAVINGS BANK LIFE INSURANCE.

The increasing demand for savings bank life insurance policies has made necessary the appointment by the State medical director of medical examiners in all Massachusetts towns having 4,000 or more inhabitants. The premium income of the savings insurance banks for July, 1916, shows an increase of 37 per cent. over the income for July, 1915. There are now upward of 14,000 policyholders, with insurance in force approaching \$6,000,000. As a result of the extremely low cost of this insurance, for the month of July nearly fifty per cent. of the business issued by the banks came by direct application to the banks or one of their agencies.

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With the nation the institutions that compose it have suffered, not one financial organization has escaped.

The Life Insurance companies of England and Canada are being tested and tried, but are not found wanting. The Mutual of Canada, for instance, has

not only held its own, but has made substantial progress during every day of the war. The wave of returning confidence finds

The Mutual of Canada on the crest, stronger and more prosperous than ever. THE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE

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INSURANCE INVESTMENT.

It is a sign of the times that a greater percentage of surplus earnings is being invested in insurance policies. According to statistics, the earnings of insurance companies have shown a decided increase that compares favorably with the most prosperous times before the war. This shows that the public is beginning now to provide for, any contingencies that may arise after the war. An indication is also given of the degree of prosperity which the people of Canada are enjoying. A marked increase in the volume of savings banks deposits also gives an idea of the economy which Canadians are learning to practice, although the process of education is a very slow one. One practice to be deplored is that of raising loans on insurance policies. This has become only too common, and in the great majority of cases could have been avoided with proper foresight and economy. Lowns have been raised on many policies, up to very nearly their entire borrowing power .-Bradstreets.

FIRE LOSSES IN JULY.

The losses by fire in the United States and Canada during the month of July, as compiled from the carefully kept records of The Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin, aggregated \$23,013,800, as compared with \$9006,800 charged against the same month last year and \$17,539,800 in July, 1914. The losses for the first seven months of this year reach a total of \$148,790,220. This compares with \$101,397,800 for the same months of 1915 and \$150,-558.050 in 1914.

THE ARSON CHARGE.

The charge of arson was quite decidedly proved and the prisoner's counsel in commencing his plea asked court to give him all the time needed for such an important defense. "Certainly," said the judge, "for the longer you talk the longer your client will be kept out of prison."-Glens Falls Now and Then.

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