

In Canada money and credits continue hard to get. Call loans are 6 p.c.; and some of the banks appear to be withdrawing funds from the call loan market, as the opportunity arises. Owing to the difficulty of negotiating loans speculation on the stock exchanges has not been active; some of the speculative favorites have shown a drooping tendency. Of importance to Canada is the news that financial London is again interesting itself in Canadian loans. Several issues of securities have been placed in the last week. The London Standard says some important Canadian offerings are to be made in the immediate future. Perhaps this can be taken as a hint arising out of advance information of a large naval loan for account of the Dominion. In financial quarters here the suggestion was recently made that the Ottawa Government should tack on to its loan for naval purposes a further large sum for providing important new public works. According to this theory, the favorable sentiment created in London by the proposed contribution to the Imperial navy would carry the whole loan through with a rush. If that policy is followed Canada's next loan in London may reach very large proportions.

The issues recently put out were made at high rates of interest. That was to be expected in view of the unsettlement in Europe. It may be taken as an encouraging sign that London has consented to take any Canadian securities at this time.

MOLSONS BANK CHANGES.

Interesting changes are announced this week in connection with the Molsons Bank. Mr. E. C. Pratt, who has been general manager of the National Breweries, Limited, since the formation of that company, will relinquish his position on January 1st, to assume the position of Montreal manager of the Bank. Mr. Pratt thus returns to a position which he held prior to his going to the National Breweries three years ago. A member of the staff of the Molsons Bank for many years, Mr. Pratt made in his former occupancy of the position of Montreal manager, a notable reputation among Montreal bankers, and his return to his former position, after a period of successful administration of the National Breweries, will be warmly welcomed.

Mr. T. B. Phepoe, who has been manager of the Montreal branch since Mr. Pratt's resignation three years ago, will, it is understood, now become manager of the Vancouver office of the bank, and inspector of western branches. The appointment is an indication of the increasing importance of the Molsons Bank's Western business and a suggestion of a policy of further active development in that part of the Dominion.

PROVINCIAL SECURITIES AND THE BRITISH TRUSTEE LIST.

A considerable proportion of the budget speech on Monday by the Hon. P. S. G. MacKenzie, Quebec provincial treasurer, was devoted to the question of the ineligibility of the provincial securities, in common with those of the other Canadian provinces, for investment by British trustees. This grievance of the Canadian provinces has been agitated spasmodically for some years, and it is interesting to hear from Mr. MacKenzie that arrangements are at length under way which will probably result in an inter-provincial conference at an early date in order to decide upon some definite line of action in regard to this matter. The action will be taken with a view to representation through the proper authorities to the Imperial Government that, through legislation or otherwise, a solution may be found by which the serious grievances the Canadian provinces labor under in this connection may be redressed, and that the trustee investment provisions under the Irish Land Act and the National Insurance Act, respectively, should be made to apply to the securities issued directly by the provinces, as well as to the railway and other securities guaranteed by them.

For the Canadian provinces, the matter is an important one. Were the wider field open to them, were their securities placed in the list of those available for investment by the British trustee, it is probable that their credit would be rated several points higher than at the present time, partly for sentimental reasons and partly because they would be sustained by purchases with trustee funds, especially funds accruing as a result of the operations under the Irish Land Act and the National Insurance Act. These latter funds, it is thought, will be likely to run into many millions sterling. The provinces have an exceedingly strong case. The present position with regard to British trustee securities is entirely anomalous. While the Canadian provinces are excluded from the list, lesser colonies such as Newfoundland, Trinidad and other dependencies are admitted thereto, and even under the trustee investment provisions of the Irish Land Act, the bonds of a foreign country like Salvador are eligible, while those of the Canadian provinces are not so eligible.

The legal view which results in these anachronisms, has already been given in these columns. About a year ago, the English Court of Appeals gave a decision affirming the exclusion of Canadian provincial stocks from the British Trustee list. The Master of the Rolls then stated that he was not satisfied that the provinces of the Dominion are either colonies or dependencies. The word "dependency," he said,

"might properly be applied to the Dominion of Canada. But I do not think a part of a dependency can be a colony. If Canada is not a dependency, it may be a colony, but a part of a colony is not itself a colony. To take the parti-