

New York Market Conditions.

The New York bank statement of Saturday last, while showing some improvement over the preceding week's banking position, was less favourable than anticipated—especially as regards the cash holdings reported by the Associated Banks. These showed a decrease of \$2,300,000, though to offset this loss there was also a reduction of \$14,000,000 in loans. In part this loan reduction was doubtless due to occasional stock market liquidation and also to the return of some interior banks to the Wall Street market. The latter movement was owing to the fact that money rates in New York were a trifle firmer for some days, while at the same time other markets were slightly easier. The resultant was an increase of \$1,661,000 in a surplus which was still, however, four millions smaller than a year ago.

The stock market tedium was enlivened a week ago by the announcement of the new Harriman financing, consisting of the authorization of an issue of \$75,000,000 convertible Union Pacific bonds and \$36,000,000 Southern Pacific preferred stock, with a supplementary recommendation for an issue of \$100,000,000 Union Pacific common stock. Taken very much by surprise, the market developed acute weakness. Union Pacific ran off abruptly from 149 to 141½, and other stocks fell to a materially lower level. While recovering considerably from the first shock of the announcement, the street developed no marked movement during the remainder of the week. Saturday's stock market was depressed somewhat by speculative activity being diverted to the grain and cotton markets—the price of wheat soaring as a result of the Government May report, and the delay in spring seeding. Monday's market, too, received a momentary set back from the activity in wheat, but closing quotations showed a firmer tone, with Union Pacific and Reading as the features. Tuesday's market continued almost wholly professional, with a tendency downward, crop prospects being still a disturbing element in speculative conditions.

There appeared on Wednesday a published abstract alleging to give the substance of the forthcoming report of the Interstate Commerce Commission on the results of the Harriman inquiry. This was seized upon by operators to force a rapid decline in prices, but the movement was modified when it was circulated that the commission itself were not yet adopted by the commission itself. Speculation continued active in wheat, but forecasts of warmer weather in the spring wheat belt forced back prices. On the stock market, Delaware & Hudson was subjected to some further severe pressure, as an outgrowth of the dispute at the stockholders' meeting and of announcements of a coming bond issue by the company. Money market conditions showed no important changes, call money being at a ruling rate of 2¼ p.c., with time loans dull and steady around 4 p.c.

The Crop Prospects.

The excellent motto: "Never prophesy unless you know," is particularly applicable to predictions concerning the crops, but the crop prophets have their own principle of application. They make it read: "Never prophesy unless you know what you want," and unquestionably they know what they want. If they want a short crop, they predict one and that is about all there is to the agricultural prophetic system at this season of the year. The United States Agricultural Department has reduced its estimate of condition percentage, from 89.9 in April, to 82.9 for May. The conditions, however, in the Canadian west, are not quite on all fours with those that prevail in the Western States. The growth is exceptionally rapid in Canada, when the weather conditions do become favourable. An exceptionally heavy snow fall is proverbially favourable to the wheat crop. No doubt much wheat has been killed, but judging by last year's immigration there should be a greatly increased acreage under crop. It is a case to take *en délibéré*.

The Place for the Imperial Conference.

The suggestion has been made that the next meeting of the Imperial Conference should be held at Ottawa. Our own firm conviction is that the one and only place for the holding of the Imperial Conference is in the heart of the whole Empire—London. As soon as the Conference begins to travel around from one colony to another, its usefulness will be gone, its days will be numbered. The principal subjects discussed involve first and foremost the relations of each colony to the Mother Country. Nowhere but in London can the Imperial Government be adequately represented. Nowhere else can the sympathy and approval of His Majesty the King be so effectively brought to bear. It is to be hoped that neither local ambitions nor local jealousies will be allowed to interfere with a great experiment in federation.

St. Lawrence Hall.

The transfer of the St. Lawrence Hall to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for the sum of \$550,000 was formally registered on the 15th instant. This is at the rate of about \$55 per foot. The fact is gratifying as an indication of the growth of real estate values in Montreal, and as a preparation for another great architectural improvement of the city's chief business thoroughfare. But many old Montrealers will experience a pang of regret at the disappearance of this hostelry of the old school, with its interesting record of reminiscences of great men and mighty events in the history of Canada—and even of the North American continent. The St. Lawrence Hall has been a landmark on the rapidly shifting sands of time.