

BUSINESS IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES

What the Factory-Owners Say—Improving the Port of St. John

(Special Correspondence.)

St. John, N.B., March 30th.

The business situation in St. John and in the Maritime Provinces, as disclosed by recent reports received by the board of trade, is most encouraging, having regard to existing conditions. The board of trade submitted these two questions: "Do you find evidence of improvement in the business situation? Is the Made-in-Canada movement having a beneficial effect?"

A wholesale grocery firm, which is also engaged in spice manufacturing, replied in the following terms: "There are quite decided evidences of improvement in business in the steadying nature of the markets. The Made-in-Canada movement is certainly having a beneficial effect. We find that manufacturers, brokers, jobbers and retailers are all emphasizing it quite strongly."

A prominent firm of manufacturing confectioners remarked in their report: "We have had a very good increase in business from the first of the year. We feel that the Made-in-Canada campaign does help, but there are too many concerns who are trying to sell on the motto rather than on the quality of their goods."

A wholesale shoe firm reported: "Business is about as usual; in fact, our shipments were considerably ahead of February last year. Our retail department shows a slight increase also; therefore, as far as our business is concerned, we feel that it is about normal."

Made-in-Canada Helps.

The following was the reply of a firm of brush manufacturers: "Business, as far as we are concerned, has decidedly improved in the last six or eight weeks; so much so, in fact, that we are now busier than we have been since this time two years ago, and we have been forced to run overtime in some sections in an endeavor to catch up with orders. This improvement is only to a very slight extent due to business arising from the war; it comes mainly from east of Winnipeg. We have no way of tracing the direct results of the Made-in-Canada campaign, but from our general observations have no doubt that this has been an influential factor in stimulating trade."

One of the large tea and coffee houses places itself on record as follows: "We find in the west a more hopeful feeling, but without much improvement in sales. In Ontario there is a decided improvement. In the east, trade, with the exception of a few places, is about normal. On the whole it would appear that the outlook is most encouraging."

Many valuable cargoes have found their way out of the port of St. John the past winter. On one South African steamer alone there were over 600 automobiles. Besides the general port business in grain a great deal of war material has been shipped through this port to Great Britain and the continent.

The port record for the present winter season is considerably in advance of that of last season. The harbor master's books show that up to this date last year, 111 steamers with a total tonnage of 403,461, had entered here, while for this season there have been 123 steamers with a tonnage of 436,969, an increase for 1914-15 of 12 steamers and 33,508 tons.

Port Improvements Continue.

The harbor development work that has been going on at St. John for a number of years past, as a result of the increased ocean tonnage that has been coming this way, has continued with little interruption throughout the winter. A fleet of dredges has been employed at East St. John in preparing the new harbor there, the material being used in reclamation work on the western side of the harbor, where larger terminals for the Canadian Pacific Railway are being provided. The excavation for the new dry dock at East St. John is also being forwarded rapidly.

The movement for a direct line of steamers between St. John and Cuba is beginning to take shape. The provincial government is pushing the scheme, in the hope of finding an outlet for New Brunswick's surplus potatoes.

The farmers and dairymen of New Brunswick have just completed a most profitable convention at Fredericton. The chief keynote of the convention was greater production and better quality of product.

TO LICENSE QUEBEC UNDERWRITERS

At the recent meeting of the Montreal Life Underwriters' Association, Mrs. A. Langstaff gave an address on the subject "Woman's place in the professions." Mrs. Langstaff is at present claiming in the courts the right to take examinations for the practice of law in Quebec province. Sixty new applications for membership were then referred for election to the provincial council and a committee was appointed to consider the relation of these applications to the Life Underwriters' Association membership contest.

A copy of a resolution from the Stanton Club advocating a Quebec law against twisting of policies was tabled for the present in view of the desirability of first securing a license act.

Mr. A. Homer Vipond reported that the bill for licensing agents in this province would be introduced at the beginning of the next session at Quebec and would in all probability be passed immediately. President Gauvin occupied the chair.

ONTARIO'S PROVINCIAL ESTIMATES

Ontario's main estimates for the current year have been tabled in the legislature. They call for an expenditure of \$9,738,236.52. The estimates so far brought down make a total of \$14,505,911.90. The main estimates and amounts are:—Civil government, \$826,489; legislation, \$319,600; administration of justice, \$782,906; education, \$2,223,193; public institutions maintenance, \$1,583,007; agriculture, \$800,891; colonization and immigration, \$119,800; hospitals and charities, \$460,337; maintenance and repairs of government and departmental buildings, \$207,012; public buildings—(1) repairs, \$62,475; (2) capital account, \$825,800; public works, \$132,600; colonization and mining roads, \$84,000; game and fisheries, \$132,800; attorney-general's department, miscellaneous, \$168,500; treasury department, miscellaneous, \$47,450; provincial secretary's department, miscellaneous, \$175; charges on crown lands, \$715,100; refunds account, \$92,500; miscellaneous expenditure, \$45,600. The current expenditure for 1915-16 being \$8,695,836; on capital account, \$958,400; other purposes, \$84,000.

BRITISH TREASURY AND NEW ISSUES

The following notice has been issued by the London stock exchange committee with regard to the purchase or negotiation of new issues on behalf of clients:—

Questions having been raised as to the action of members of the Stock Exchange in negotiating for their clients subscriptions to or purchases of new issues made abroad, the committee wish to remind members that such subscriptions or purchases are not allowed unless the permission of the committee and the approval of the treasury have been previously obtained.

Regulation 4 (3) of the temporary regulations for the reopening of the stock exchange lays down that—

"No dealings will be allowed in any new issue made after January 4th, 1915, unless specially allowed by the committee and approved by the treasury."

The treasury notice of January 18th, posted in the house on January 19th, lays down that—

"Issues or participations in issues for undertakings carried on or to be carried on outside the British Empire shall not be allowed."

The treasury notices which at various times have been issued by the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury state that such restrictions, held to be necessary in the national interests, should be considered binding not only on members of the stock exchange, but on the whole community.

Commenting on this, the London Economist says:—This takes the matter of new issues right outside the terms of the bargain made between the stock exchange and the treasury as the price of reopening. The last paragraph, though most indefinite, is apparently very sweeping in the possibilities of its application, though we do not know what legislative foundation exists for the enforcement of the regulation upon members of the community who have not bartered their freedom of business discretion for a treasury privilege.