

is to wipe out the retailer's margin, and leave him insolvent, just in the same way and by the same operation of economic causes, as a stock operator is financially crippled, or ruined by having bought what he cannot sell at a price high enough to cover his margin and come out clear. In conducting the dry goods, or grain business, to take familiar ones as an illustration, there are intermediaries, known as "brokers," or "agents," who keep no stock, nor even buy on their personal account, but are ready to purchase goods for wholesale houses which do not employ their own "buyer." The standing of these brokers or agents, as a rule, is very high, they have had wide experience; their judgment is exercised on behalf of clients, and the utmost reliance is placed upon their honour. Yet, out of the business committed to them, men have been ruined, for buyers sometimes speculate far beyond their means in staple goods, especially in wheat and other food products. In such cases, the broker has no responsibility, either financial or moral, as the transaction he carried out, under instructions, was strictly legitimate, although based on a wrong judgment. The analogy between the business of such intermediaries and those who act for dealers in stocks is so close as to make their business identical in its very essence.

"The abuse of a thing is no argument against its use," is an ancient and true saying. The charges made against stock transactions as sources of grave disasters and evils, are charges wholly against the abuses incident to this, as they are to all forms of business. If buying stocks on partial payment is gambling, then the vast bulk of the world's commerce is gambling. Without speculation in some form trade could not be conducted.

The development of stock exchange business in recent years is one phase of the revolution which has been going on for a generation, by which private capital, as the basis of industries, is being replaced by what we may term public capital. The individual owner is disappearing, and the shareholder is coming to the front. This movement has raised the Stock Exchange into great prominence as a source through which capital is derived for the establishment and maintenance of industries. Such a medium between the innumerable small capitalists whose money is needed by, and is available for joint stock enterprises, is absolutely necessary, and the Stock Exchange by enabling such resources to be combined in order to provide the capital needed by industrial, transportation, traction, and other companies is doing a most important, indeed, invaluable and essential service to the country.

As to bucket-shop operators, they are already under the ban of the law.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending July 16, 1903; clearings, \$2,535,636.43; Corresponding week last year, clearings, \$1,878,432.03.

THE DOMINION REVENUE FOR YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1903.

Official statements showing the revenue up to successive dates in the past year, having periodically appeared in THE CHRONICLE, the remarkable exhibit of the revenue for complete fiscal year, ended 30th June last, will not cause much surprise, though the figures are large beyond precedent. The receipts of the Customs department alone are larger than the entire revenue in 1888, and more than double the total amount in 1870. The entire revenue last year was over double the receipts in 1884. As compared with 1901-2, the year 1902-3 stands as follows:—

	REVENUE.		
	Total to 30th June, 1903.	Total to 30th June, 1902.	Increases.
	\$	\$	\$
Customs.....	36,678,836	31,945,651	4,733,185
Excise.....	11,923,424	11,116,790	806,634
Post office.....	4,264,808	3,737,025	527,783
Public works, including railways.....	7,004,076	6,380,723	623,353
Miscellaneous.....	3,868,124	3,123,503	744,622
Total.....	63,739,271	56,303,694	7,435,577
EXPENDITURE ON CONSOLIDATED FUND ACCOUNT.....			
	41,449,103	42,255,316	Dec 806,213
EXPENDITURE ON CAPITAL ACCOUNT, ETC.			
Public Works, Railways and Canals.....	3,979,541	8,084,739	Dec. 4,105,198
Dominion lands.....	357,746	312,308	Dec. 45,438
Militia, capital.....	160,191	183,424	Dec. 23,233
Railway subsidies.....	1,367,032	2,093,939	Dec. 727,907
Bounty on iron and steel.....	1,241,247	600,180	Inc. 642,038
South Africa contingent.....	126,330	258,777	Dec. 132,337
Northwest Territories rebellion.....	-2,967	-1,214	
Total.....	\$7,230,093	11,532,155	Dec. \$4,302,062

Although the above figures are published in the Official Gazette, they are not complete, but the changes will, probably, not make any material difference in the proportion between income and expenditure, as the returns to be added will be about equal on both sides the account. The figures seem to indicate that the Government has been trying to build up as large a surplus as possible at the close of the year. If the expenditure on Consolidated Fund Account is alone considered, the surplus according to above returns is \$22,290,163. But if the expenditure on Capital Account is taken off this surplus, there is still \$15,060,075, which result puts the Government in a position to reduce the debt by a good round sum, and still leave a balance for special purposes. A portion of such a surplus could not be more usefully spent than in improving the St-Lawrence.

THE MASONIC GRAND MASTER, at the Toronto meeting, proposed that in celebration of the semi-centennial in 1905 a \$100,000 fund be subscribed to furnish annuities for afflicted brethren. It is to be hoped that if this commendable scheme is carried out that it will be organized under the advice of some actuary of high repute—otherwise it is likely to be a failure.