ada. Why should Canada operate a Mint to turn out sovereigns and half sovereigns which do not circulate in this country? What will be done with such coins? There is absolutely no receiving place for issue of new gold coins, that is, there is no demand for them. It is anticipated, that the Government intends to alter the Banking and Currency Acts, so as to to enable them to force the coins made at the Canadian Mint into circulation. If they compel the banks to hold a higher proportion of their reserves in gold coin, the total issue of Dominion notes will be proportionately decreased, and their profits to the Government will be sacrificed. If the law is so altered as to compel the banks to enlarge their cash reserves, in order to make a place for the Mint coins, there will be, to that extent, a reduction in the resources of the banks for sustaining the businesss of the country. The critic of Mr. Clouston says: "If the Mint coins will not circulate, they will not displace any quantity of the bank or Dominion notes in the circulation," consequently his assertion that "the Mint coin will tend to displace and disorganize our present currency, is a contradiction to his other arguments." There is no contradiction in what Mr. Clouston stated. While the Mint coin was being held by the public, as it would be for a time, after being paid out by the Government, it would displace so much currency; it would not be "circulating" but be, as it were, hoarded by individuals for a time, and it would be paid into the banks, and be a form of money they could not put easily into circulation. What, superficially viewed, seems a paradox, or contradiction, would infallibly happen, for the Mint coin would not circulate, in the proper sense, yet it would disturb the currency and displace a certain amount of the note issues; for the Government would pay such coins out to a heavy amount, they would then stagnate until paid into the banks, and the banks would have their resources crippled by accumulations of money in a form useless for their business transactions. Our banking and currency system has stood every test and every strain without showing any defect. It is "stable, safe, elastic and convenient, it adapts itself most admirably to the commercial requirements of the people, to the ebb and flow of trade, in the changes of each passing year." It is a very serious matter to disturb arrangements that have worked so efficiently, and so smoothly. the paper money of Canada is, practically, gold money, for it is convertible into gold. That no demand for gold coin exists, save by tourists going to Europe, and little by them, is a demonstration that, the public of Canada greatly prefer notes to gold coins. Why then should the revenue of the country be taxed to build, and equip, and operate a Mint for making coins for which there is not the least demand, and which would only get into the hands of the public by the Government paying them out to its officiels, and creditors, by whom they would filter through stores into the banks as deposits, much to the inconvenience of the banks? The Mint coins would act on the currency like a clot of blood in the veins, as, when they got into bankers tills and vaults, they would only obstruct the free flow of their cash resources. The banks would be compelled to export such monies, or hoard them, and both courses would result in loss. A Canadian Mint would practically be a factory for making goods for which there is no home demand, and a foreign one only at very long intervals. The Bank of Montreal, Bank of Commerce, Bank of British North America, Merchants' of Halifax, and other banks have made special arrangements at a considerable cost, to provide a market for all the bullion offered by miners at a price fully as high as they would receive at a Mint. The very fact that these banks object strongly to a Mint is proof that its establishment would not raise the local market price of gold, for, if that were likely to result, they would be only too glad to make profits by buying miners' gold at the place of production and selling it to the Mint. In whatever aspect the Mint scheme is viewed, it shows no advantages which would compensate for its cost of establishing and operating. All the Mints in Australia are worked at a loss, as are other national Mints, their object being to supply the currency in general use, certified by the Government. There is no currency in use in Canada requiring to be supplied by a national Mint.

As the scheme is fraught with danger to our present incomparable system of banking and currency; as it would be of no advantage to miners, or the country; as it would entail a waste of public money in its operation; and, as it is universally condemned by bankers, we believe it to be the duty of the Government to abandon the proposal to establish a Mint in Canada.

VICTORIA-MONTREAL FIRE INSURANCE CO'Y.

Present Position of Affairs.

This Company commenced business under a Dominion Charter in May, 1899, and its experience during the short period of its existence has been of a most unsatisfactory nature. It started as a non-tariff office, and, as an inducement to secure business, and at the same time to secure shareholders, it offered a rebate of 20 per cent. off tariff rates to all stockholders. It also arranged to transact business in the United States. In addition to heavy organization expenses, the losses from conflagration hazards and otherwise were also heavy; this being especially the case in connection with United States business. Its experience included the Ottawa-Hull conflagration, although its entire losses by this conflagration were limited to $27,000.

To experienced underwriters, the above tells this story.