

out the negotiations. When the \$1,000,000 flotation of treasury certificates was made last spring it was expected that with the proceeds, together with a subsequent sale of bonds, the city would be put in a favorable position, but it had been found unable to sell any bonds. With this coming issue of certificates everything except about \$175,000 due on local improvements work yet to be completed, would be cleaned up. The council has also approved of the remittance to London of £10,400, being money on hand to purchase three-months' exchequer bills, bearing interest at 5 per cent. These bills will be applied against the £70,000 worth of treasury certificates coming due in London on April 2 next. At present the money to be forwarded is bringing the city but 3 per cent. Already £10,000 had been sent to England as the favorable position of exchange permitted a large saving by forwarding it at that time, in fact on some remittances the city had secured a rate as favorable as \$4.62. The balance, £50,000, which must be sent over to retire the London certificates, will be secured from the flotation proposed to be made in New York.

PRICE OF WAR BONDS

With reference to the apparent decline below issue price of the recent war loan, the securities were offered to the public at 97½, payable in instalments and with the first half-yearly coupon payable in full. To holders who paid in full on January 3rd, under the prescribed rate of discount, the actual cost of the bonds was a little over 96½. The real cash issue price was about 96½, the issue yielding at this price a rate of interest approximating 5½ per cent.

On January 3rd subscribers to the loan had the option of paying their subscriptions in full and taking advantage of the discount allowed. At the finance department this week it was learned that this has been extensively availed of. Two-thirds of the \$100,000,000 has been paid in full, and it is estimated that when all returns are in three-quarters, or \$75,000,000, will have been paid. This is four months in advance of maturity.

WHY INVESTORS NEGLECTED ONTARIO'S MINES

"After proof had been afforded of the richness of the Cobalt silver deposits, surprise was expressed at the absence of investment of British capital in the field, and it is known that but a comparatively small amount of such capital has been embarked in the various gold-mining enterprises that have since been formed in different regions of Ontario," says the London Statist, which adds:—"An explanation of the indifference of English investors to Canadian mining enterprises, even to those of distinct promise, is that in the initial stages of companies for dealing with Canadian properties, the English investor, where he had been induced to take an interest, found he had been 'had.' Companies formed for the purpose of manufacturing scrip and disposing of it to a credulous public were momentarily successful in the nefarious aims of obtaining good money for the output of the printing press, or, at best, the public was induced to secure an interest at extravagant prices in what were called mines, but which were only prospects.

"The same features in respect of Klondyke, Canadian, and American concerns were repeated as to Cobalt, and sought to be repeated in respect of some recent gold-bearing regions. Yet companies honestly conceived and soberly-working gold and silver properties are making rapid strides, and much is likely to be heard in the not far off future as to the increase of production of both gold and silver in Northern Ontario.

"With increasing returns from mines already producing, and the steady addition to the producing list of properties presently being developed, Porcupine promises to be a district of great importance.

"Respecting some of the Kirkland Lake propositions," this authority states, "there is a lamentable state of indefiniteness as to what are the interests of London-formed companies initiated on supposition of their having secured a controlling interest in Canadian-formed companies, such as Tough-Oakes and Burnside, both having what are believed to be good properties. The English shareholders in these and associated companies ought to bestir themselves and have an inquiry to ascertain how they stand."

COMMERCIAL FAILURES IN CANADA

Insolvency Returns for Past Three Years Analyzed— Liabilities Were Heavy

In contrast to the preceding year, commercial failures in Canada during 1915 showed a considerable decrease in number, though the liabilities of defaulting concerns were in excess of even the exceptionally heavy amount in 1914. Thus, Duns' Review finds, there were 2,661 insolvencies and these involved \$41,162,321, as against 2,898 for \$35,045,095 in the previous year, 1,719 in 1913 for \$16,979,406 and 1,357 in 1912, when the sum of money owed was only \$12,316,936. In comparison with 1914, the manufacturing division made an adverse exhibit in both respects, there being 655 such insolvencies for \$13,877,414, against 614 for \$11,063,191, whereas trading suspensions numbered 1,888, as compared with 2,164, although the indebtedness was larger than in the year immediately preceding—\$21,606,890 contrasting with \$18,677,935 in the earlier period. Among agents, brokers, etc., there were 118 reverses and the amount involved by these was \$5,588,017, these figures comparing closely with the 120 similar failures for \$5,303,968 in 1914.

Improvement in Some Provinces.

Geographical analysis of the Canadian insolvency returns shows that, numerically, material improvement occurred in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, with decreases of 208, 83 and 40 defaults, respectively, while slight betterment appeared in Prince Edward Island. The record for all other provinces was unfavorable, though increases were not striking in any case. In regard to the liabilities, a particularly adverse exhibit was made by Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta and Newfoundland, these changes more than offsetting the contraction in British Columbia, which reported a decrease of about \$2,200,000, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Canadian Failures by Branches of Business.

The returns for the past two years are shown in the following table:—

	—1915—		—1914—	
	No.	Liabilities.	No.	Liabilities.
Manufacturers.				
Iron and foundries	8	\$ 90,005	10	\$ 213,302
Machinery and tools	51	730,998	37	612,190
Woolens, carpets, etc.	5	45,300	1	70,000
Cotton, hosiery, etc.	2	6,100	1	235,000
Lumber and carpenters ..	175	4,115,701	98	3,934,340
Clothing and millinery ..	02	1,180,201	102	923,359
Hats, gloves and furs ...	12	541,202	18	150,490
Chemicals and drugs	21	354,498	8	201,921
Paints and oils	..		1	70,000
Printing and engraving ..	32	282,302	33	265,441
Milling and bakers	46	381,392	38	100,268
Leather, shoes, etc.	14	410,503	23	380,222
Liquors and tobacco	12	521,802	9	71,614
Glass and earthenware ...	25	1,611,701	24	635,244
All other	250	3,605,799	211	3,199,800
Manufacturing	655	\$13,877,414	614	\$11,063,191
Traders.				
General stores	295	\$4,333,693	372	\$4,271,004
Groceries and meats	414	1,676,007	476	3,266,396
Hotels and restaurants ..	162	3,368,502	149	1,716,798
Liquors and tobacco	88	632,903	84	310,089
Clothing and furnishings.	223	2,534,096	317	2,455,390
Dry goods and carpets ...	130	1,902,208	161	1,607,725
Shoes, rubbers and trunks	75	678,804	91	872,219
Furniture and crockery ..	53	521,904	53	417,344
Hardware, stoves and tools	86	1,150,795	77	401,441
Chemicals and drugs	31	280,805	33	351,311
Paints and oils	..		2	12,000
Jewelry and clocks	41	295,005	57	406,201
Books and papers	26	124,308	19	120,221
Hats, furs and gloves	18	392,597	16	466,833
All other	246	3,805,263	257	2,002,063
Trading	1,888	\$21,606,890	2,164	\$18,677,935
Agents and brokers	118	5,588,017	120	5,303,968
Total	2,661	\$41,162,321	2,898	\$35,045,095