

BIG CHRISTMAS BONUSES TO BE GIVEN EMPLOYEES

New York Banks and Brokerage Houses to Distribute Record Amount

New York, Dec. 11—Employees of banks and brokerage houses are looking forward to Christmas with confidence that the bonuses they will receive this year will be higher than ever before. Although none of the banks or brokerage firms has made formal announcement of the amount to be distributed it is predicted, confidentially that in most cases it will be 100 per cent. of the employees' yearly salary.

This is predicted on the fact that the year has been a most prosperous one for the banks and other firms, and the amount of the bonus generally is decided by the amount of profits made during the year. Last year many of them gave 50, 75 and 100 per cent., but this year's figures will top those of 1918 because of the fact that most of the employees have received one or more salary increases during the year.

A man who is familiar with the financial district said that he thought most of the houses in the Wall street section would be unusually generous this year. He mentioned no names, but said:

"In few cases is it likely that less than 100 per cent. will be given. Some of the big houses have been unusually successful in underwriting big syndicate operations this year, and their profits have been unusually large. According to Wall street custom these profits would be shared in a large measure by the employees."

"The big banks have had a good year. They, too, will no doubt pass their good fortune along to their employees. As a matter of fact it probably has not been decided definitely just how much the bonuses will be, except in one or two cases. The bank directors usually make their decision just before the middle of the month, and distribute the money ten days before Christmas."

Inquiries at the big banks elicited the response that in no case were the officials ready to make an announcement. The announcements are expected shortly before the distribution on Dec. 25. As the bonuses are not paid to the high salaried officials, in most cases, the

amount is not as high as it would seem. Estimates last year placing the amount distributed at \$3,000,000. It is likely to be as much as \$500,000 more this Christmas.

Still Singing.
One Sunday the minister of a small country parish church had the misfortune to forget his sermon, and did not discover his loss till he reached the church. Suddenly an idea struck him. He sent for John, the beadle, and instructed him to give the One Hundred and Nineteenth Psalm (containing 176 verses), while he hurried home for his sermon.

On his journey back to church he saw the faithful beadle standing at the church door, waving his arms, and urging him to hurry.

On reaching the door, he exclaimed: "Are they singing yet, John?"

"Ay, sir," replied John, "they're at it yet; but they're cheepin' like sparries."

A Detroit savings bank, determined to ship **high-calibre long-range rifles** to all merchants in the vicinity of

the new burglar alarm which has just been installed. The weapons are to be distributed loaded and will be kept always ready in a handy place.

Two young men entered a naval recruiting station in Minneapolis and presented themselves for physical examination. Supposing that they wished to

enlist, the department gave them a thorough inspection and found one in good condition, but the other unfit. "Thank you, sir," said the perfect one.

"And now," turning to his companion, "you see I'm the better man." They took leave hastily, leaving the examiners bewildered.

Can the Government Run Our Railways?

The current edition of Investment Items tells why the Grand Trunk purchase is still a live issue, and why in our judgment Government management of Canadian railways is a costly blunder.

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