Prices of local stocks yesterday are from 1-2 to 3 points in advance of the close on Saturday, and it seems probable that another era of firm markets is setting in.

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The Canadian parliament has been called for the 1st February. At the forthcoming session it is more than probable that the Bank Act will come up for revision, and the Bankruptcy bill may be re-introduced. In connection with the Bank Act, it is to be regretted that it must be considered with the terrible record of the Ville Marie Bank so fresh in the public mind, for such a condition of affairs is not conducive to that calm consideration of amendments which the Act not only merits in its now almost perfect condition but requires, if it is not to be injured. The chief amendment will doubtless be one which will in future prevent the over-issue of note circulation, probably by taking the printing of bank notes out of the hands of individual banks and clearly defining the quantity of notes which shall be placed under control of each. The question of bank inspection is certain to come up. It is about as certain to meet with opposition on the part of the banks, if not of the Government; but the present danger is that, unless a compromise is suggested, bank inspectors will be forced upon the system by public opinion. There would not be much harm in the appointment of inspectors to examine the note circulation account, or to take charge of a suspended bank, but serious injury would be done the banking system of Canada if a system of general inspection is grafted upon it. It might, however, not be out of place to call upon such banks as have a capital less than is required for new banks under the Act to submit to inspection; but the adequate inspection of large banks with dozens of branches is out of the question, except by officials immediately connected with each.

The insolvency bill was withdrawn just as it had met with the approval of all sections of trade, including the banks. Certain changes in the Acts of the lower provinces especially have rendered a bankruptcy act less necessary to Canadian merchants, but it is our brothers in Great Britain who are most urgently calling for the Act, and we might with advantage accede to their wishes.

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It is a favorite saying of Mr. George Hague's that the seeds of adversity are sown in times of prosperity. Business men will do well to bear this in mind in entering upon the present year. The trade statistics have for some time past given cause for the fear that the country is over-importing, which is a cumulative danger. Without desiring to reflect upon the judicious use of the stock or mining exchange, it must also be said, as a note of warning, that many a prosperous business is crippled by the withdrawal of too much money for use in outside ventures. The purchase of real estate, even, may be detrimental however good its value. And it may further be emphatically said that the love of luxuries, of high living, which prosperity engenders, is often the fore-runner of disaster. Pessimism is out of place under the present circumstances, but it seems evident that Canada has reached, or almost reached, for the moment, the high tide of her prosperity. Progress can be made further only by returning to trade a legitimate proportion of the profits derived from trade, in opening new markets, in adopting perfected machinery, in conserving capital and even increasing it. The now rapid peopling of our North-west, the development of our mining industries, are factors in the permanence of our prosperity, but with these opportunities must be associated the business acumen to make the most of them, the determination to live prudently. The year 1900 should be exceedingly prosperous if only by linking the Empire in bonds of fraternity as never before, and by reason of the changed feeling which our neighbors display towards us, which, though they may not be demonstrated in kindlier tariffs, cannot fail to be productive of closer trade.

A POLICY OF CORDIAL CO-OPERATION.

Whatever may be said or thought of the marked growth of good feeling between the United States and Great Britain, we can have nothing but admiration for the praiseworthy efforts being made by the leading New York papers to educate their readers into seeing that the best guarantee for earnest co-operation among nations is to be found in a definite community of self-interest. That this community of interest exists between the United States and Great Britain in a more obvious way than between either one of them and any other nation is becoming plain to the best men of both peoples. Seeing this to be the case, we almost regret our passing comments in this issue upon the singular phantasm of Professor Bell about the annexation of Canada by his adopted countrymen, and the notice we have bestowed upon the monster meeting of Boer sympathizers in New York on Sunday last.

There can be no serious misunderstanding between the two countries so long as the situation is looked at from the same point of view as that occupied by the New York "Commercial Bulletin." In illustration of the wisdom of adopting a policy of cordial co-operation among nations, the journal in question says:—

"We should have had to suffer a serious loss of international prestige had not Great Britain interposed a veto to any interference with our foreign policy last year. It is extremely probable that certain moves hostile to British interests would be made to-day at one or two points in Asia but for the generally recognized fact that they would also be regarded as hostile to the United States. No better illustration could be found of the radical change which has taken place in the relations between the two great English-speaking peoples than is afforded by the absolute lack of irritation here over the seizure by British ships of war of American property on the high seas. The entire confidence that full justice will be done to all the parties concerned, and that there is not the slightest hint of aggressiveness in the act, is more significant of the existence of all the essential conditions of national ac-