Monetary Times

Trade Review and Insurance Chronicle

of Canada

Address: Corner Church and Court Streets, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
Telephone: Main 7404, Branch Exchange connecting all departments.
Cable Address: "Montimes, Toronto."
Winnipeg Office: 1206 McArthur Building. Telephone Main 3409.
G. W. Goodall, Western Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year	Six Months	Three Months	Single Copy
$3.00	$1.75	$1.00	10 Cents

ADVERTISING RATES UPON REQUEST.

The Monetary Times was established in 1867, the year of Confederation. It absorbed in 1869 The Intercolonial Journal of Commerce, of Montreal; in 1870 The Trade Review, of Montreal; and the Toronto Journal of Commerce.

The Monetary Times does not necessarily endorse the statements and opinions of its correspondents, nor does it hold itself responsible therefor.

The Monetary Times invites information from its readers to aid in excluding from its columns fraudulent and objectionable advertisements. All information will be treated confidentially.

SUBSCRIBERS PLEASE NOTE:

When changing your mailing instructions, be sure to state fully both your old and your new address.

All mailed papers are sent direct to Friday evening trains. Any subscriber who receives his paper late will confer a favor by complaining to the circulation department.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

THE ROYAL COMMISSION'S REPORT

THE report of the Royal Commission on Industrial Relations, the substance of which is given elsewhere in this issue, is at first sight a disappointing document. It is quite evident that the commissioners have been unable to locate any one cause of the present industrial difficulties; the labor witnesses and the labor commissioners themselves were quite unable to do so. Consequently it is scarcely to be expected that any one remedy would suffice. The commission was not appointed to find a complete solution, however, but to make recommendations to alleviate the situation. Numerous suggestions are made; in fact there are so many that when it comes before the House the debate will probably drift into general lines and the principal issue forgotten.

In addition to these suggestions, generous wishes are expressed for the "uplift" of labor, and the peace treaty's declaration as to the status of labor is approved. But the report seems to pass up the whole issue when it merely advises that these principles be carried out by employer and employee. The Commission was not obliged to approve of all apparently worthy suggestions brought to its attention, and no harm would have been done by omitting all mention of some of the less important. On the other hand the working up of a more definite scheme, to be put into force either by law or by voluntary action, would have brought about more distinct and readily applicable results.

Some consideration must, of course, be given to the fact that the report was hastened for the present session of parliament, and thoroughly matured recommendations could not therefore be expected. Moreover, the opportunity to express views before it, and the evident lack of uniformity of these views, has itself been beneficial. The economic system is benefited by a thorough freedom of expression of all views except those which advocate violence, and a discussion of difficulties emphasizes the foolhardiness of any single panacea for reform.

LIFE COMPANIES & MORTGAGE INVESTMENTS

IT has been urged as a solution of the alleged housing problems in New York City that insurance companies in the State of New York be required to invest their mortgages in property in that city. This would, of course, have the effect of creating an artificial supply of money for this purpose and would lower the interest rate on mortgages in New York City. A measure of this kind has been urged by Mr. Samuel Untermeyer in recommendations to Mr. N. Hirsch, chairman of the Mayor's Committee for the solution of the housing problem.

Commenting upon these recommendations, Mr. William B. Ellison, a prominent New York solicitor, very properly points to the fact that "the funds of insurance companies are held in trust for policyholders, not alone in the city of New York, but throughout the state and throughout the nation; and it may well be that the non-resident policyholders would object seriously to having their security dependent upon New York property under conditions that have prevailed here for some time—political and otherwise."

In explanation Mr. Ellison continues:—

"The last Democratic municipal platform called for municipal ownership and operation of all of our utilities, and the effect of such a proposition upon city real estate is quite apparent. The financial credit of every community in this country that has adopted municipal ownership and operation, has suffered; and so long as there is any danger of such a situation in New York, we must expect the city's credit to be similarly impaired. No government can go or advocate the going, beyond proper governmental functions, and hope to retain its financial credit; indeed, it is a matter of grave doubt whether the city of New York has not already reached, if not passed, the constitutional limitation of its indebtedness. These conditions answer Mr. Untermeyer's suggestion completely, in my opinion.

"It is charged that the insurance companies invest their funds in railroad stocks and bonds. My recollection is that savings banks do likewise. Furthermore, railroad