

options to suit all tastes, are ages, all pockets, and in a manner of speaking, to slant all weathers, are thrust upon the innocent investor at every town. The rates are remarkably cheap. When the reader recognizes that markets have been steadily rising for some months now, and that all the profit made by the "investor" is a loss to the "outside broker" or dealer through whom he operates, the anxious way with which the "bucket-shop" keeper, high or low, wait for a big break in prices can be imagined.

The rates are very cheap. A one-month's option to "call" 20 shares of the Canadian Pacific railway can be got upon the payment down of \$50, at the call of \$10,000 Grand Trunk ordinary stock for the same period for \$75.

Even seven-day or weekly options are now being popularised. These, and fortnightly ones are only granted subject to cash accompanying instructions, and at the end in the absence of instructions they are closed at the first official price on the day they expire. These are the cheap options by which the smallest capitalist can come into the stock markets.

Then for the people less speculatively inclined there are the new and "boomed-to-death" systems of "marginal investment." A man who has, say, \$125 to invest in is advised to deposit it with the "outside" brokers, as 20 % "margin" on small parcels of shares in five different, well-known, and big-dividend paying industrial enterprises. The total market value of the shares is, say, \$625 and the dividend income \$60 per annum. The dealer "advances" the remainder, of the purchase price \$500, upon which loan he requires 5 % per annum interest. This requires \$25 per annum, leaving the investor with \$35 per annum as a dividend upon his \$125.

Put into dividend paying mines still larger possible yields are held out to dazzle the eyes of the investor who has hitherto been content with his Consols, and his savings bank. It is alluringly shown that \$250 used as 20 % deposit upon \$1,250 worth of dividend paying mines (interest being charged at 5 % on the unpaid balance in the case of mines) will yield a final net return to the investor of over 70 %.

#### INSURANCE.

One way in which the views of the United States Equitable exposures works out here is shown by the alarming stories in circulation as to the remuneration paid to the heads of the British branches of the New York Life and the Mutual of New York. This is reaching the depths indeed. It baffles the comprehension of the mere member of the public why the salary paid to the officials of a great insurance company is a topic for proper discussion.

Another phase of the attack upon American institutions here is bolstered up by the publication and circulation of a copy of some correspondence with the general manager of the New York Life, in Great Britain, on the question of surrender values. The present rage for the home-grown United Kingdom crop of insurance companies is very hot, almost too hot to be lost. Business in quantities, however, continues to be written through it all. This is the good sign of the situation. The air is clearing and the corners are being swept out. The end looks like being well indeed.

The smart rise in the prices of the leading British insurance shares has had the effect of reducing by a fair amount the average yield upon these shares as investment. The following is a complete list of the shares which yield from 4½ % upwards. I give their paid-up value, market price and net yield to a present purchaser on a basis of past dividends:—

Company.	Paid up per share.	Market price.	Net yield.
Law Guarantee . . . . .	\$5.00	\$6.25	8-10 %
Marine . . . . .	22.50	192.50	5¼ %
Railway Passengers . . . . .	10.00	45.00	5½ %
Rock Life . . . . .	2.50	22.50	5 %
Indemnity Marine . . . . .	15.00	61.50	5 %
Ocean Marine . . . . .	12.50	54.00	4¾ %
Phoenix . . . . .	25.00	182.50	4¾ %
Thames and Mersey Marine . . . . .	10.00	44.00	4¾ %
Alliance Marine . . . . .	125.00	225.00	4½ %
Pelican & British Empire . . . . .	5.00	17.50	4½ %

#### STOCK EXCHANGE NOTES.

Wednesday, p.m., October 11, 1905.

The week's business shows a considerable falling off, but prices, although showing a decline from the highest, continue fairly firm, there being no apparent pressure of stocks for liquidation. There has been a decided falling off in the trading in the Dominion Iron & Steel securities, but the interest in Montreal Power continues, and it was the most active security in this week's market. The introduction of a motion in the City Council to again approach the Company on the lighting question is considered the forerunner of some satisfactory arrangement being concluded. The traction stocks are also lower than last week, particularly Twin City. The heavier tone is attributable to the unsettled position of the leading money markets, and more intimately through the influence of the lowness of the New York bank reserves and other conditions. Higher rates for call money in Montreal came into effect at the close of last week, and although it is unlikely that any stringency will be experienced, the higher rate tended to diminish trading.

Call money in Montreal rules at 5 per cent., while in New York the call rate to-day fluctuated between 5 and 6 per cent., most of the loans being made at 5½ per cent. The rate in London for call loans was 3 per cent.

The quotations for money at continental points are as follows:—

	Market.	Bank.
Paris . . . . .	2½	3
Berlin . . . . .	4	5
Amsterdam . . . . .	2½	2½
Brussels . . . . .	2½	3
Vienna . . . . .	3½	3½

\* \* \* \*

C.P.R. reacted to 169 this week, and touched 168½ in New York, recovering to 173 this morning, declining again and closing with 170¾ bid, a net loss of 2¼ points on quotation for the week, and 1,549 shares were traded in. The earnings for the first week of October show an increase of \$132,000.

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The Grand Trunk Railway Company's earnings for the first week of October show an increase of \$52,314. The stock quotations as compared with a week ago are as follows:—

	A week ago.	To-day
First Preference . . . . .	114½	114½
Second Preference . . . . .	106½	106½
Third Preference . . . . .	61½	61½

\* \* \* \*

Montreal Street Railway closed with 237½ bid, at which price the last sales were made. This is an advance on quotation of 1½ points from last week's close, but a decline of 1½ points from this week's highest, and 1,649 shares changed hands. The earnings for the week ending 7th inst. show an increase of \$8,070.33 as follows:—