

## Financial Features

### WATERLOO SELLS BONDS.

Ninety-five thousand dollars' worth of bonds were sold last week by the Town Council of Waterloo, Ont., to the United Financial Corporation, whose head office is at Montreal and business office at Toronto, for \$89,613.50, the rate being 94.33 cents on the dollar, and interest at the rate of 6.72.

### BOND SALES REDUCED

September was a quiet month in the bond market, the total of new financing being \$9,389,176, as compared with \$16,804,644 in August and \$1,494,038 in September a year ago, says The Monetary Times. The low total in September, 1919, was due, of course, to the Victory loan, bond selling organizations devoting themselves almost entirely to that undertaking. No corporation or railroad issues were floated last month, and the volume of Provincial financing was very small as compared with previous months. The total of municipal bond sales was greater, being \$5,639,117, as compared with \$3,404,644 in August and \$744,038 in September.

### TO REDUCE EXPENDITURE.

The German cabinet has decided unanimously on a programme for reduction of the Reichstag's expenditure, putting the burden on the individual states within the confederation, says a Berlin despatch. Finance Minister Wirth and the new Reichstag commissary Carl, have been accorded extensive authority in this direction, according to the despatch. The Reichstag administration will also be greatly reduced.

### BELL TELEPHONE RATES.

The committee of Montreal aldermen appointed to study the application of the Bell Telephone Company for an increase in its rates, met Thursday at the City Hall. Mayor Martin, who presided, submitted a copy of the report of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada for 1919. This financial statement states that the gross revenue amounting to \$14,149,000 but \$43,000 was charged to profits and loss.

The outlines of the report are as follows: Gross revenue, \$14,149,119, operating expenses, \$9,247,452; leaving the net operating revenue of \$4,901,667; and as other sources of revenue amounted to \$218,108, the total gross corporate income was \$5,119,776.

From this latter amount the deductions were as follows: Taxes, \$654,602; interest on bonds, \$557,450; interest on stock instalments, \$108,407, which brings the net corporate income down to \$3,799,316.

Finally the dividends on the common stock amounted to \$1,440,000, and as the sum of \$2,316,200 was charged to depreciation, this left a balance of \$43,116, which was charged to profit and loss.

Among the other details contained in the report is that the telephones in use number 337,476, of which number 236,307 are in use in Ontario and 101,169 in Quebec. The total salaries and wages paid during the year was \$9,419,385.

It was decided to distribute copies of the report to the members of the committee.

### RAISE FOR C. P. R. EMPLOYEES

Negotiations completed by the System Board of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers and Express and Station Employees have secured for 2,000 employees on Canadian Pacific Railway, western lines, increases in pay retroactive to May 1, 1920. Back pay alone will amount to approximately \$500,000, the announcement made by the board stated.

### EXCHANGE COSTS TORONTO DEAR.

Finance Commissioner Ross reports to the Toronto City Council that a total of \$22,232,715 had been expended by all civic departments for the nine months ended September 30. The total appropriations for the year were \$29,897,278. A total overdraft is reported of \$218,361, of which \$165,930 was spent by the Treasury Department, made up of exchange on remittances to the United States.

### BOYCOTT BELFAST BANKS.

The Irish Trader's Protection Federation has issued a circular stating that the Government has been asked to declare a moratorium on Belfast banks owing to the situation created by the Sinn Fein boycott and large withdrawals from the banks. The Sinn Fein some time ago decided to force the withdrawal of money from Ulster banks by refusing to accept cheques drawn on such banks. Indignation was expressed by Belfast bank officials at the circular issued by the federation. The banks intimate that in their opinion the object of this circular, which is described as an outrageous libel, is to stimulate the boycott movement, which they declare has proved a failure.

### BRITISH CAPITAL FOR CANADA.

Commenting on the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire in Toronto, the London Times, in its Trade Supplement of recent issue has the following:—

"Apart from the actual business of the Congress, important as that is, the occasion has given an excellent opportunity to the delegates from other parts of the Empire to gain some idea at first hand of the wonderful industrial expansion which has been and is still in progress in the Dominion. In view of the deplorable fact that last year only four British branch factories were established in Canada, against 200 branches of American concerns, the need for a better acquaintance with the position in Canada should be apparent to British business men. We hope that as the result of the visit of the British delegates to the Dominion in connection with the present Congress there will, in the near future, be a marked reduction in the disproportion between the numbers of branches of British and American manufacturing enterprises established in the Dominion."

### MORATORIUM IN HAVANA

All the Havana banks, both foreign and domestic, some of which continued Monday to carry on business as usual, have now taken advantage of the moratorium decree issued by President Menocal, which permits depositors to draw only ten per cent of current accounts and 12 per cent of savings deposits.

A change in the method of operations under the moratorium has been agreed to by bankers, under which any person desiring to do so may make new or "special" deposits, which may be drawn on for any amount. Such depositors, however, may not withdraw more than ten per cent of their old deposits. Until this agreement had been reached the banks refused to accept deposits, except with the understanding that only ten per cent could be withdrawn during the moratorium period. It was realized by the bankers that this procedure would result in serious difficulties for business operations of all kinds.

The Havana newspapers comment favorably upon the moratorium decree. They are unanimous in declaring that the country's financial crisis is only transitory.

### MANITOBA TELEPHONES

A deficit of \$200,000 in the operation of the Manitoba Government telephone system for 1920 was announced by Premier T. C. Norris, Thursday, who stated that increased rates will be necessary. The deficit is due mainly to increased wages and operating expenses, it is stated.

### HOLLAND'S FINANCES UNSTEADY

While stock quotations continued to drop on the Amsterdam bourse, last week, efforts were being made by the highest financial interests and the speculative publics to bring about a conference with a view to stabilizing financial affairs. On the bourse, Thursday, sugar, rubber, petroleum and shipping shares, all closed below Wednesday's prices. Havana sugar reached a low level of 6.60, while Royal Dutch Petroleum was down a point to 729.

### DOMINION TRUST CO.

J. G. Gwynn, liquidator of the Dominion Trust Company, received an order from Mr. Justice Murphy, authorizing him to pay a dividend of ten cents on the dollar upon those claims of unsecured creditors which have so far been allowed by the court, and to set aside claims of unsecured creditors

not yet allowed by the court, but to be adjudicated upon in the near future. Secured creditors have already been paid over \$25,000,000, and the amount of claims as adjudicated upon and allowed by the court upon which the dividend will now be paid is \$2,358,774; the unsecured claims still to be adjudicated upon total \$467,748, and will likely be reduced by court decision.

### THREE RIVERS BONDS.

A sale of a bond issue by the city of Three Rivers, Que., is reported, the purchaser being Beaubien & Co., Montreal. The issue comprised \$700,000, ten years, six per cent and at the purchase price of 96.80 the borrowing takes place on a basis of about 6½ per cent. This is considered an exceptionally good price for such an issue, and indicates either higher bond prices or local enthusiasm, in the view of Toronto bond men, as the higher bids came from French-Canadian houses.

The bids received were as follows:—Beaubien & Co., 96.80; Beausoleil & Co., Rene T. Leclerc; Versailles, Vidri-caire & Boulais; Municipal Debenture Corporation and Credit Canadien, 95.86; Provincial Securities, 94.85 for \$200,000; A. E. Ames & Co., Hanson Bros., and Dominion Securities, 93.69; United Financial Corporation, 93.579.

## Government Suspends Sugar Order

### Board of Commerce Would Prohibit Importation of Cheap Sugar "to save Canadian Refineries from Threatened Ruin."

Before the order of the Board of Commerce fixing a maximum price for sugar and restricting trade in that commodity to purely Canadian channels, had been a day in operation, it was suspended by the Government pending a public hearing on October 20, by the Cabinet itself of the arguments for and against regulation at the present time. The Government bases its action on a report by the Minister of Justice expressing his conviction that the Board of Commerce had no statutory power to promulgate such an order. A statement was issued by Right Hon. Arthur Meighen that contains the declaration: "Unless reasons can be shown to the contrary at the hearing, the order of the board will doubtless then be finally rescinded."

On Wednesday while the cables were tapping out the information that raw sugars were being offered in Cuba at 6.21 cents and that the stocks held there were very much larger than the newspaper-reading public had been led to believe, the Board of Commerce in Canada were issuing an order fixing the price of sugar to the consumer in this country at 21 cents, plus freight, and containing regulations to prevent the consumer from purchasing cheap sugar elsewhere. This order was to remain in effect until the end of the present year.

Under its provisions refiners were restrained from selling sugar otherwise than to wholesalers, manufacturers or retailers, and the latter were restrained from buying sugar otherwise than from such refiners.

In order to justify the order, the Board of Commerce accompanied it with a lengthy statement in which it was stated that their predecessors on the Board had laid down the principle that it was their duty to protect the trader on a falling market as well as to protect the consumer on a rising market. The statement also pointed out that all the sugar refineries in eastern Canada had closed, because, "owing to the embargo on export which was put on to protect the consuming public, they have excess supplies on hand." The values of sugars bought and to arrive under these conditions were placed at approximately sixty millions.

"Thus it will be seen," continued the statement, "the refiners face a situation which is frankly critical and becoming daily more acute. The refinery works are closed, the vast capital concerned is tied and wasting and the refiners, in some cases, are already being carried by the banks."

The statement recalls that when, some time before the close of the war, there was an almost universal shortage of sugar, the sugar refineries co-operated with the Government in an endeavor to protect the Canadian consumer, and it was as a result of this co-operation that Canadians felt but in a slight degree the shortage of sugar, and secured sugar until recent weeks, at a cost below the price obtaining elsewhere. The amount saved to the Canadian consumer as a result of the action taken at that time is estimated at \$20,000,000.