

Street securities market during the week—much of it being traceable to Berlin; but also some was influenced by the uncomfortable home situation brought about by the recent Government suits against corporations. It now appears that the syndicate formed to take the Southern Pacific stock owned by the Union Pacific will be relieved of its undertaking and receive a fee of \$1,250,000. The stockholders of both of these roads have already suffered considerable losses as a result of the Supreme Court's decision; and it is quite possible that they have further losses to meet.

* * * *

In Canada the monetary situation is unchanged. Call loans are 6 to 6½ p.c., and mercantile discounts, 6 to 7. The uneasiness created by the run on the City and District Savings Bank has been dispelled. The strong manner in which the bank met all demands should serve to create confidence. There was an important failure in the lumber trade at Quebec, but it appears to have been due to special circumstances. The outside disturbances have, however, affected Canada to some extent. The heavy liquidation and sharp decline in Canadian Pacific has been rather disconcerting to the local traders. It is supposed that Canadian speculators have lost considerable sums through this decline, as they have always been bullish on C.P.R. Naturally local stocks have sold down. To have held them up would only invite liquidation from abroad. The liquidation has perhaps served to lessen the strain on the banks. But one cannot be sure that the tension is relieved by it, because in case of stocks sold here by foreign holders the banks are obliged to provide sterling or New York exchange.

DISTRIBUTION OF CANADA'S BANKING FACILITIES.

In the current issue of the *Journal of the Canadian Bankers' Association*, Mr. H. M. P. Eckardt describes in statistical detail the distribution of Canada's banking facilities. It is only under banking systems possessing extraordinary merit, he writes, that smaller places acquire decent banking facilities: "In this matter the Canadian banks can stand comparison with any country in the world. It is doubtful if there exists a single country or province in which the inhabitants of very small villages are given such valuable facilities as they have in the Dominion. For this state of affairs, the free note-issue power of the Canadian banks is largely responsible. Because they are able to stock the tills of hundreds of branches with their own 'promises to pay,' which serve as currency, the banks are able to operate a very large number of small offices without locking up many millions of actual cash in the form of till money."

Mr. Eckardt points out that in 1901 there were only 750 bank branches in all Canada, of which 619 were in the Eastern Provinces and but 131 in the Western Provinces. At the end of 1911 the num-

ber of branches in operation throughout the Dominion was 2,570—over three times as many as in 1901. Of these branches, the East claimed 1,623 and the West 947.

"Concurrently with the extension of the branch systems," continues the writer, "there proceeded a great extension of the capital and resources of the banks. This served to bring about a vast increase in their usefulness and power. The tables illustrate in detail the magnificent manner in which the banking system has responded to the needs of the times. It is not at all probable that it would have been able to do so if the law of the country had placed the banks under ligatures that served to cramp and confine them, or if the Government had proceeded to deny the banks the right to exercise their natural functions, or to tax them oppressively at every turn, as is done in various other countries, where the mistaken notion is held that it is for the public good for the state to screw everything possible out of the banks."

The tables which follow show in detail the banking offices in proportion to population and value of manufactures of the cities, towns and villages of the Dominion, the subjoined table summarizing the results arrived at:—

	Population.	Bank Offices.	Inhabitants Per Bank Office.
44 Cities	2,035,926	729	2,793
62 Towns (large) . . .	393,714	217	1,814
316 Towns (small) . . .	520,391	564	923
611 Villages	330,994	501	661
	3,281,025	2,011	1,632
Rural Districts	3,923,813	559	7,019
All Canada	7,204,838	2,570	2,803

"Of course it will be understood," the writer concludes, "that the large population shown as belonging to the rural districts—over 3,900,000—has more than 559 banking offices to supply its requirements. A considerable part of this population would be attached to the bank offices operating in the incorporated villages, towns and cities shown in the statements. Most of these bank offices—practically all of them that are situated in agricultural districts, would draw custom from the outlying farms and settlements. The 559 offices given as in rural districts are merely the offices in those little hamlets, East and West, which have not been incorporated. Probably in their case the actual average number of inhabitants per bank office would be smaller than that shown for the 611 incorporated villages."

The annual statement of the Sawyer-Massey Company for 1912, shows net profits of \$242,861, an increase over 1911 of \$13,355. Bond interest and the expenses in connection with the new bond issue entailed charges amounting to \$33,850. The balance available for common stock, after meeting the regular preferred dividend was \$104,011 or \$20,495 less than in 1911. Against earnings of 8.3 per cent. shown on the common stock in 1911, the percentage was 6.9 per cent. in 1912. With the balance of \$104,011 carried forward from the 1912 operations, the Company had on December 31st last, a balance at credit of profit and loss of \$360,738, or equal to about 24 per cent. on the common stock.