bounties given by Germany and other nations to encourage its export.

The mode of government most suggestively suitable for a federal union of these colonies can only be briefly referred to here. The numerical strength of the white population, and, with some important exceptions, the intellectual condition of the remaining population, are such as may not yet warrant the granting of responsible government. That, however, should be the object in view, whenever, in process of time, conditions become favorable, and in the meantime, the suggestive method appears to be the centralizing of the government at one selected point under a modification of the crown colony system, with the executive side represented by the governor and the necesary executive officials forming the council, which would have the administrative authority, and the legislative side represented by an elective house of assembly in which the members of the council would ex officio have seats, and with a right of veto to the crown on all legislation. The qualification of electors should include a satisfactory English literary test, as well as land ownership or rental. Under legislation passed by the assembly, local municipal councils would be created dealing with roads, streets, bridges, water, light, police and such local objects, and administering, under the federal laws, education, public health, agriculture, local transportation, etc., whilst the criminal and civil law now existing in each colony would continue until amended and all laws consolidated under federal legislation. Further, all existing debts of each colony would be taken over by the federation, which would have wide powers to incur obligations for development, whilst the municipal councils would, under definite authorization, have limited borrowing powers for local purposes. The municipal and parochial systems already in force in some of the colonies would form a basis when enacting general federal legislation for town and country local government.

(To be Continued.)

CANADIAN CHEQUE SYSTEM AND FORGERIES

In view of the prevalence of forgeries, cheque-raising and similar swindles being perpetrated on banks, all the branch managers of the Sterling Bank of Canada were asked by the general manager to suggest the best means of adopting preventative measures against attempts of this kind, and in this connection received some very interesting replies. The following are the principal recommendations:—

1. That cheques should be embossed with the war tax stamp, and customers should buy the cheque books from the bank.

This would be the best remedy if adopted by all banks.

2. That cheques should all be numbered when printed, and a record kept of the numbers given each customer, so that any cheque could be traced. Ledger-keepers to enter in each account, the number of the cheque book.

Cheque book to be turned in on closing account.

Caution slip to be pasted in cover of cheque book, warning against handing out cheque forms.

Customer to sign for cheque book.

The measures which the Sterling Bank has put in force are as follows:—

1. That all Sterling Bank cheques be withdrawn from all bank counters, and from all public places. Those now distributed and unused are to be gradually eliminated. The only cheques left available for the general public, to be our standard counter cheques, of which a limited number will be placed on the bank's counters.

2. That no cheque or cheque books be issued to anyone who has not a bona-fide deposit account with the bank.

3. That the size of the cheque book given out be determined by the size and activity of the account.

4. That all cheques of the bank be kept under lock and key and in charge of the manager.

5. That no new accounts be opened without first being submitted to the manager, and the manager must be satisfied as to the real identity of the party opening the account, so as to prevent an account being opened in a fictitious name. The account must be considered by the manager from the following standpoints: (a) As to safety; (b) as to profit; (c) as to probable trend, etc.

6. Any large or sudden changes in the balance of an account, or in the number of items relative thereto, either debit or credit, require the manager's careful consideration.

EIGHTY MILLIONS FROM LAND TAXES?

Proposal to Tax Land Values 1 Per Cent. Submitted to the Dominion Government

Eighty million dollars, the amount which could be expected from a 1 per cent. tax on land values in Canada, according to a statement of the Canadian League for Taxation of Land Values. A resolution favoring such a tax has been presented to the Canadian government for consideration. The needs for the tax are cited as follows: (1) National debt of probably $1,000,000,000; (2) requirements for soldiers' pensions; (3) no increase can be derived from customs revenue. This proposal, the league says, involves no disturbance of business conditions, and adds that, aside from the undoubted fact that increase in tariff taxes, provided imports continue at the present or larger volume, would accentuate the high cost of living, there is a great probability that an increase in the rates of customs duty will check imports in many lines and defeat its own object.

Ample Returns for Treasury.

"A multitude of varied, direct or semi-direct taxes would have to be imposed to obtain anything like the equivalent of the result obtained by a tax of 1 per cent. on Canada's land values.

"A tax on savings or investments would drive these from Canada; a tax on industry or production will discourage and curtail it.

"The league's plan is free form these objections. The land is immovable and its value will be maintained if Canada refrains from driving population away with uncertain and bothersome taxes.

"A tax on land value to those who are utilizing the opportunity given them is a matter of small consequence. The 1 per cent. per annum would mean to the average farmer and home-owner less than $20 per year. It would, however, procure from the centres of the big cities and large towns ample returns to the treasury.

"A considerable proportion of the land value of Canada is held by non-residents sometimes indirectly under Canadian incorporations, and this tax will oblige them to pay their share of the defence of their possession.

Invite More Population.

"It is land values chiefly that have benefited by Canada's war expenditures. The laborers, artisans and tradespeople generally might have left the country with all their savings and belongings, but the land is immovable, and so long as population is maintained or increased land value will fluctuate very little.

"It is manifestly good policy to retain the population we have and invite more by throwing open opportunities, which the tax we propose will assist in doing.

"It is sometimes urged that all do not own land. This is true, but all must use land in some form—from the farmer with many acres to the laborer who must have access to land for rest after his daily toil. The tax would be paid from the site-value fund which is the product of the presence and activities of all classes of population."

In summarizing the effects the League for Taxation of Land Values states: "The tax will produce the funds required; it will be certain and definite; it can be collected with a minimum of expense; it will be drawn from the value produced by the people collectively; in stimulating the use of the land it will attract population; in stimulating the use of the land it will increase railway and steamship traffic and earnings; it will help to increase production; it will avoid the danger of driving away wealth and population, which many other forms of taxation are likely to do."

WAR CERTIFICATES AND DEBENTURE STOCK

Up to and including February 22nd last, the Dominion government have sold the following: 33,732 war savings certificates, with a value of $2,455,313, and 1,212 5 per cent. debenture stock certificates, valued at $6,609,500.