

laborers, the humble artisans, and small investors. Each is able thus to open the door to a modest fortune by placing his savings where they are sure to be safe. As the savings increase, the choice of securities increases. The investors begin by putting their pennies into the savings banks, then they buy a share of some safe concern, and end by buying Government securities or shares in the great railways, with their fixed returns.

Foreign securities, and what are called in America the "industrials," are never or seldom approached until the attainment of a competence, or at any rate until the first investments have reached and rest upon a solid foundation. Evidently, the get-rich-quick idea has not made so much progress in France as it has in this country.



TORONTO UNIVERSITY.

It is excellent news that the Grand Trunk Railway proposes to pay to the Ontario Government now in a lump sum the amount agreed upon as the price of the old Parliament buildings site on Front Street, Toronto, namely, \$180,000. The railway company, which has erected freight sheds on the site, was given under the agreement, the option of purchasing within five years at the sum mentioned, instead of continuing to pay a rental. Upon learning the company's decision the Government decided to take a forward step in regard to the University of Toronto, the necessity of which has been recognized, namely, the addition of a physics building to those now comprising the departments of the University. When this \$180,000 is paid to the Provincial treasury it is to be put to a special account for the purpose named, instead of going into the general revenue.

It has been repeatedly urged that a physics building had become essential to the continued progress of the physics work, and the Government has now reached a decision that will be gratifying, of course, to all friends of the University. At the same time it is satisfying to be assured that the new building will be erected in such a manner as not to encroach upon recreation or park grounds. The erection of a physics building and of the other structures in progress or projected in connection with the University is going forward in accordance with a general plan drawn up both with a view to the appearance of the buildings as a whole, and the necessity of having them within a certain area. Torontonians who pass along College Avenue will note that the new School of Science, in connection with the University, built by the Government at a cost of \$300,000, is almost completed, and is likely to be occupied in January, while the handsome medical building, has been in use for some time. It may be also recalled that in 1903 the Government voted \$50,000 towards the cost of the proposed convocation hall. This is intended to be placed not far from the Observatory building in the campus.



—The exhibits made by Canada at the World's Fair in St. Louis have shown, once more, that if a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing well. Our exhibits over these were, on the authority of many visitors, Canadian and other, good, some of them extremely good, and attractive as well. The attractiveness of a display at such a place, it should be remembered, is half the battle. Hon. Mr. Blair brings home the intelligence that one of the leading men, the head of the United States Mineralogical Department, told

Mr. Hutchison, the Canadian official in charge, that he considered the Canadian mining and mineralogical exhibit as absolutely the best commercial mining exhibit that had ever been put together. We may assume his meaning to be, from the use of the word commercial, that this mining exhibit was of service quite outside of its interest to geologists or other scientists. It was so arranged as to stimulate curiosity among men of the world, business men, and thus to lead the man in the street to understand what the scientist already knew, that Canada is a great storehouse of minerals and metals as well as other things.



—The shipment of wood to Britain from the Miramichi region of New Brunswick has closed for the season, and word comes that the lumber shipment from that section of the province aggregated about 94,000,000 feet. This is nearly 6,000,000 feet less than for the previous year. It is stated that the Miramichi lumbermen propose to follow the example of lumbermen in other parts of the province, and reduce their cut of logs during the coming winter, in the hope of thus strengthening the English market. A prominent English buyer now in that district says, however, that even if this be done, it will be August next before such a course produces any effect upon the market of Great Britain. The October arrivals of Canadian lumber in English ports had already shown a lessening as compared with the previous October.



—The United States Government through the Bureau of Forestry is carrying on some interesting experiments in order to determine the rate at which different kinds of timber will season. Certain kinds of timber, it is known, are improved by being soaked in water for different periods of time, but the chemical or physical changes which occur are not fully understood, with the result that the best economic usage of timber is largely a matter of accident. The enquiry referred to may prove highly valuable in discovering means for the arrest of decay, the best utilization of certain parts of the tree, and so forth.



—The word "inexhaustible" when applied to the richness of a soil is only a comparative term at the best, notwithstanding the flowery language of Government writers of immigration literature, and the optimism of western wheat-growers themselves. Sir Richard Cartwright, in his recent trip to the West saw enough to impress him with the truth of the reports of the wonderful fertility of the land in Manitoba and the Far West. But he saw enough, as a wise man, to be convinced that, even there, the land would have to be treated scientifically in order to continue producing good crops for future generations. This is a question which means literally hundreds of millions of dollars to future Canada, and Sir Richard is evidently very right to be insistent in drawing immediate attention to a possible remedy. He is convinced that it is time for the Government to take steps to guard against the exhaustion of this fertility in the North-West, such exhaustion as has taken place in the Western States through constant wheat cropping, and advises that an active campaign be begun to insure proper crop rotations. To this end experimental stations and demonstration bureaus should be established throughout the wheat-growing region and a persistent campaign undertaken, even though the cost should amount to several millions.