

of weekly earnings, though they reached the large total of \$684,000, showing an increase on the same week last year of \$91,000. This indeed gave the foundation for higher values but more was required for their realization. The money situation at London had to improve. Funds on loan for the carrying of the stock had to be got at easier rates and the general money outlook had to give signs of returning to the normal. Also the suspense about the Transvaal had to be broken in upon by the declaration of war and by the turn hostilities have taken towards victory and a better situation in Africa. No sooner were these preliminaries assured than this good stock sprung responsive to the call of its friends. The road was too prosperous and too national for its stock to be depressed under omens so favorable. At present prices the stock is still a purchase for legitimate trading of every description. As an investment the longer it is held the better and should circumstances necessitate or induce buying a higher price than the present one may be counted on as almost a certainty.

MONTREAL STREET RAILWAY.

Short interest in this stock exists and throws its weight occasionally into the sinking scale, short sales making weak prices weaker, but the bearish short interest in this stock is as likely to meet with loss as with profit. The price is liable to sudden and considerable fluctuations and unless when operated on at high levels, turns on the bear shorts and spoils their selling. For this same reason it is to holders on margin a cause of annoyance and loss unless the margin is large. One or two days' break might force a selling at a sacrifice, while the following few days will bring about prices which would have made selling then a source of profit. Long stock, however, when well and strongly held is independent of transitory changes and is a favorite on the market, partly as investment and partly for profit taking. There has been during the week a good deal of realizing of long stock for the purpose of profit taking. The advances on Friday to 312, on Monday to 314, and on Wednesday to 314, were followed in the afternoon by a decline to 310½, closing Thursday at 310½ to 311. How holders on margin and short traders fared last week was likely a mixed experience only partially profitable. Apart from conjectural results more or less correct on speculative traders who have used general conditions as a pretext for bearing on the stock, the market feeling on it continues bullish. The company keeps up with an almost unflinching regularity, very good showings of earnings having large increases on the same days of the previous year. It also is hopeful that as the internal situation of the company is all that could be desired, so its external relations with other corporate bodies will issue in nothing injurious to business. Few securities are more traded in than the Street, few are greater favorites or merit favor more. The 10 p.c. dividend the more than 3 investment return and the possible advantages from future business are solid arguments on which to base a recommendation to moneyed people to turn in some of their funds into Montreal Street Railway as a good investment. Buy it on declines as occasion offers.

TORONTO STREET RAILWAY.

This security as representative of the general market has taken up the active defensive attitude which now that raids have ceased to prevail, is a feature of market movements. It no longer retreated from point to point, it even recovered some of the ground that had been lost, but its friends did not fight so strongly as to pass the limits of vigorous defence. This attitude characteristic of the general market is justifiable in present circumstances. The

bond, exchange and money markets, though in better condition, are not free from danger. Loan rates are lower, especially for time money, exchange rates are higher and bonds are being well held, but as gold exports are being talked of, these easier money conditions may be all changed. Again the reduction of the Transvaal to a part of the British Empire and bringing in its train many advantages to the commercial world is not yet by any means an accomplished fact. The vicissitudes of war might change for a time at least the present favorable aspect of British interests and international complications are occasionally heard of as not impossible. Such an aggressive defense as will easily allow of a few points fluctuation in prices is therefore looked on by market authorities as the least hazardous of stock transactions. This is especially the case with Street Railway securities which, besides being liable to common depressions work side by side with many other interests and occasionally come into conflict with them. Toronto Railway stock made a vigorous defense last week, and recovering some points gave unmistakable proof of innate strength. It is a security that those who like strong stock should certainly invest in. On Friday, it gaining 1½ points, sold at 110½, on Saturday gaining another 1½, the price was 112, on Monday it registered 112, on Tuesday 112, on Wednesday 111½, and on Thursday 110. On September 1st the price was 118, and it may be expected to work up much nearer to this than it is at present whenever general prosperity is less hampered by political and financial conditions.

ROYAL ELECTRIC.

The investing public are waiting the outcome of the litigation between Mr. Forget and the minority holders of the Chamblay Co. Rumors are rife that the Belque party are anxious to make some arrangement. Notwithstanding their statement that legally they are in the right, the great majority of the investing public are of the contrary opinion, and this opinion is supported by the best legal talent in the city. Right or wrong, that Mr. Belque and his party should adopt such methods to accomplish their ends, is greatly to be deplored, and they must know that such a course is not calculated to secure the confidence of investors. We understand that Mr. Morrice and Mr. Cowans regret that their names have been mixed up in these questionable tactics and that they are more than anxious that the question in dispute should be settled outside the courts. It is to be hoped that their views will be adopted and that Mr. Belque will see that it is in the best interests of both companies that he should accede to the just demands of Mr. Forget.

The stock during the past week, everything considered, has been well held, only small sales having been made, the bid and asked being nominal between 156 and 160 all week, closing at 157 and 161 yesterday.

BANKS.

Most of our bank stock has recovered points this week sharing in the early strong movement of the general list. Some of these securities are so strong that their movement is rather sympathetic than necessary. However, as banks represent not merely gold imports and exports, the money, the exchange, and the bond markets, but also the general prosperity, their stock prices is significant. As exports and imports of gold have been merely nominal, lessened money rates, and heightened exchange rates, material chiefly as good omens, and bond sales by no means an infrequent occurrence, the advance in bank stock valuation must be taken as indicative rather of prosperity in general than of any market improvement that is actual. It was a big jump in the quoted demand for the Bank

of Montreal stock on Saturday when it rose from 255 to 260, and on Monday from 260 to 265. Actual sales were made too, at same advance this week. The advances in both, especially in the demand show that banking authorities have made up their mind that the tendency of the present market is one towards advancing values. The Bank of Montreal which has led in this advance, raised its rates of exchange to an equality with those of the Bank of British North America 4.84 and 4.88. Transactions in bank stock this week are on the usual somewhat limited scale. All the national banks of the United States have reported to the comptroller of currency under the last call and abstracts showing the condition of the national banks Sept. 7 were made public. The condition is a very satisfactory one. The loans and discount amount to \$2,490,751,251; the individual deposits are \$2,450,735,595. The average reserve held is 29.38 per cent. It may be interesting to mention also that on Monday week the payments on account of the Central Pacific reorganization plan resulted in the second largest daily exchanges, \$315,495,973, reported in the history of the New York clearing house. The highest record was on April 11, last, when exchanges aggregated \$352,882,500.

COTTONS.

While the cotton market after advancing sharply on Friday and Saturday, receded later in the week, such of the cotton stocks as were traded in showed steadiness at former level or decided advances. Canadian Colored Cotton Bonds to the amount of \$2,000, changed hands at 101, the same price as on October 5th, when \$4750 of them were sold, and as that of October 13th, when a sale of \$4300 was put through. Dominion, on good inside buying it is supposed, rallied vigorously from 96 the lowest of last week to 98, 99, 100, 101 on Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. As shortage of cotton crop is reported from Southern States, India and Egypt, it seems very probable that prices will move up, which, of course, need not have an injurious effect on the cotton mills. Manufactured cotton has been advanced in some lines and all accounts represent cotton industries as in a better position than they have been for several years. Under good management, therefore, Cotton securities ought to become more valuable. Montreal Cotton on a small sale gained one point. This company is a very progressive one, its large extensions at Valleyfield being well timed to take full advantage of the manufacturing boom. Speculators would probably like to have more offerings of this 8 p.c. dividend stock which realizes 5½ on investment at price 145. It seems a stock that might easily be bought to sell higher than it is at present. The volume of cotton stock business is increasing and is creating something of a demand. There is no doubt of a good reception for the stock already existing and for any new issue. As side lights on the cotton situation the following announcements on Wednesday, are interesting: "Crop and business conditions continue as favorable to prices as at any recent period. Spot cotton declined 1-16 to 75-16 cents for middlings at New York. Futures closed 7 to 8 points net decline." "Cocheco Cotton Mill No. 1, Dover, N. H. beginning today will be operated day and night for the next few weeks."

COMMERCIAL CABLE.

Profit proportionate to the amount of stock traded in could have been secured by the deals at 182 and 182½. The stock has been selling around 179, while its highest on Sept. 23 was 183. It is not always possible to invest in this security, the offerings being small and intermittent, but its return to the higher level shows that it can be used for profit taking. Being stock of business that is almost indispensable in war and in peace, its condition is secure. Its dividend of 8 per cent is equivalent at 180