

propose making this arrangement for one year, when perhaps American silver in Canada will be so small as to render its continuance unnecessary. It may be suggested, however, that this plan, while it would no doubt, get rid of the United States money already in the country would do little to prevent its continued entry. What would appear to be wanted is some scheme for placing it under a sort of disability in the eyes of the Canadian public.

A REFLECTION ON BANKING PRACTICE.

There is just a possibility that incorrect or misleading reports have become extant regarding what the judge actually said in connection with his sentence on Johns, the cashier of the defunct Bank of Yarmouth. According to these reports, Johns was given a comparatively light sentence because, though the judge could not see how the law could be so interpreted as to permit it, "the evidence seemed to show that many bankers had adopted the practice, and therefore that the prisoner had some justification for making returns as he had done."

It seems strange, taking the truth of the reports for granted, that any judge either should let a falsifier of returns off so lightly on any such ground, or that he should make such a statement as to bank practice, a statement which is not warranted by facts. We are not now engaged in calling into question the mildness of Johns' punishment; perhaps there were other circumstances not explicitly mentioned to render such a course advisable. We do call into question, however, the learned judge's statement (if he really made it), as to the manner in which bank officials send in their returns to the Government.

If dishonest bills and drafts are to be treated as ordinary accounts, and entered as current loans and discounts, then a bank's true position may never be known. Of course, in the case of a client having one or more of his bills on customers returned to the bank unpaid, and for renewal or presentation at some future time, it would perhaps not be unbecoming for the bank to treat it in the manner suggested. But this would be only for a strictly limited period, and merely to save confusion, and the bank would have a thorough understanding of the position of his client. When, however, the amount of dishonored bills on one firm reaches an aggregate of over \$350,000, or equal to 60 per cent. of the bank's total discounts, the case takes on an altogether different color, and to say that such is the practice of many banks is apt to create grave misapprehension.

The position of the defunct Bank of Yarmouth shows a sufficiently deplorable state of affairs, without adding to it the idea in the public mind that there is any system of Government returns carried on which is not strictly legitimate, and absolutely accurate. Our efforts to obtain confirmation or otherwise of the statement in question, have not as yet been attended by success, but we still hope to learn that the judge's remarks were misrepresented, as they tend to give rise to misleading conceptions of banking methods.

THE STOCK MARKET.

This is the time of the year when one is apt to take the bearings of the stock market and note how it compares with the beginning of the year, and with the previous one. During the last four or five weeks

there has been a distinct revival in stock exchange business, and the prospects for a continuance of such are favorable. That is to say, the promise for large crops is at present good, but of course this feature, upon which so much depends, may change for the worse at any time. At any rate, the undertone to the market is quite strong. In Wall Street, which sooner or later affects all markets, the tone during the last two or three weeks has been distinctly buoyant, and it is a matter for conjecture why the Canadian centres have not become more so than they actually have done. It would appear that the New York market has been largely of a professional character. Compared with a couple of years ago the general public is practically outside altogether. Certainly, this applies very closely to the Canadian Exchanges. Another feature which distinguishes the present situation is the absence of new securities of an industrial or other character.

In keeping with these general considerations, values are found to be, as a rule, on a higher level than was the case last year. For one thing, owing to the elimination of the above-referred-to "undigested securities," the supply of money available for stock transactions is larger, and good securities do not have to be thrown away to protect the less worthy. In Montreal, the aggregate amount of trading for the first half of the present year was 623,015 shares, and \$2,893,800 odd of bonds, compared with 262,000 shares and \$1,305,000 of bonds for the first half of 1904. In Toronto the aggregate number of shares for the first six months of 1905 was 410,266 and \$592,500 worth of bonds, compared with 209,193 shares and \$728,100 of bonds in 1904.

Notwithstanding the "Lawson disclosures," the tendency in stocks has been distinctly upward. Canadian Pacific; for instance, since the early part of the year, has gone up from 132 to 151, Dominion Coal from 62 to 79. Bank stocks have as usual kept within a narrow range as a rule. The traction stocks, such as Twin City, have tended strongly upward. Bonds have been favorite investments.

It would not be wise to attempt to prophesy as to the probable course of the stock market. With good crops, there is a chance that the volume of business will show a gradual increase; at the same time, to counteract this tendency, the large requirements for moving the crops is apt to bring about a stringency in the money market, with which any very large amount of speculation does not usually coincide.

MUTILATED COINS.

It will please many to note from the budget speech that there is a chance of something being done to obviate the large circulation in this country of United States money. There is another matter relating to the coinage, however, which, it seems to us, might well have been taken up by Mr. Fielding. We refer to the loss on punched or defaced silver coins, the resolution of the Toronto Board of Trade concerning which appears in this issue. These coins no one willingly receives; in fact, they are not legal tender, and the result is that the loss accruing from the accidental possession of them generally falls to such unperceptive mediums of circulation as church collection boxes and street car fare boxes. Yet why should not the Government take some means for redeeming them? Silver coinage is not worth its face

value. True even much latter, with remains un go to the owners on would lik matter in c

THE

It is Arcanum d plane the tests from these expe tion to go received is absurdity. accidental principle u

Assess increased members i the organi ments to m larger, an fifty-five o an impossi by fresh e

With comes the the death- them to in membersh healthy li death-rate insured b to have th cost them cannot te future.

Perha prove the system of a fund su obligation Certainly, as has be the colla fraternal is well st Commis comment

Kinne, u similar in may be the asses that is to of busin manner Row put

"Th or frate popularit be actual years of ization f num. E receive \$