popular form of investment. The effect of the formation of a free market in these bonds would be that members of the Stock Exchange, who would hold the bonds in exchange for the speculative accounts which had been lifted from them, would be able, if they desired, to turn these bonds into cash, and so continue their business. From the point of view of the people who lent money to the Stock Exchange at the last settlement, and thus financed the speculative position, it may be remarked that the rate for Stock Exchange money was then 3¼ per cent., while under this scheme that would be receiving 4½ per cent.

DECREASED YIELD FROM CROPS.

A bulletin issued by the Census and Statistics Office at Ottawa this week gives the usual preliminary estimate of the yield of the principal cereal crops in Canada, according to reports of correspondents made at the end of August. Continued drought, especially in the northwest provinces, has seriously affected the yield per acre, which is lower than that of any year since the season of 1910, and lower than the average of the six years ended 1913. From the areas sown to wheat, oats, barley, and flax in the northwest provinces it has been necessary, in estimating the yields, to deduct a considerable acreage which, owing to drought is reported as failing to produce any grain. For the three provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the areas thus deducted amount to 728,100 acres of wheat, 753,000 acres of oats, 102,000 acres of barley and 79,000 of flax. These are as representing percentages of the areas sown of from 3 to 7½ in Manitoba, 7 to 13 in Saskatchewan, and 7 to 15½ in Alberta.

For all Canada the yield per acre for spring wheat is just under 15 bushels, as compared with 20.81 bushels last year, and with 19.2 bushels the average of the four years, 1910-13; for oats the yield is 32.0 bushels, against 38.7 last year and 36.3 the four year average; for barley, 24.7 in 1914, compared with 29.9 and 28.5; for rye, 18, against 19.3 and 17.8; and for flax, 8.3, against 11.3 and 11.5.

AGGREGATE YIELDS.

Upon the harvested area of wheat in Canada of 10,293,900 acres, including fall wheat, the aggregate yield is estimated at 159,660,000 bushels, as compared with last year's excellent outturn of 231,717,000 bushels, and with 204,712,000 bushels, the annual average for the four years 1910-13. Of oats the estimate is for 327,732,000 bushels, against 404,669,000 bushels last year and 351,246,000 bushels the four-year average.

Barley is estimated to yield 37,014,000 bushels, compared with 48,319,000 bushels in 1913 and 42,745,000 bushels the annual average; rye, 2,019,000 bushels, against 2,300,000 bushels and 2,189,000 bushels and flax seed, 9,042,000 bushels, compared with 17,539,000 bushels last year and 14,497,000 bushels the annual average for the years 1910-13.

Nova Scotia Steel has issued a circular stating that in view of the present situation, and a portion of the plant being closed down, the dividends on preferred and common stock usually payable on October 15 will not be declared.

STOCK EXCHANGE VALUES.

What must be described as a melancholy interest attaches to our present monthly valuation of Stock Exchange securities, says the London *Bankers' Magazine*. In the first place it will be noted that the valuation only covers a period of ten days instead of a month. That is to say, whereas our usual comparison is with the 20th of each month, the present valuation shows the position on July 30 as compared with the 20th of that month, which was the date of our previous valuation. The reason for this fact is, of course, well known, namely, that since July 30 the Stock Exchange, in common with other foreign markets, has been closed. We have, however, decided to publish our record this month as usual, because it enables us to continue our statistics right down to the time of the closing of the House, and when the moment of re-opening comes we shall, of course, make our comparison of new prices with those prevailing at the time of the closing of the House.

AN ENORMOUS DEPRECIATION.

The first point which we think will strike the imagination of readers of our present valuation is the fact that the shrinkage which occurred in the value of our 387 representative stocks during the brief period of ten days exceeds any previous decline which has occurred even in the space of a month, and it enables one to appreciate the tremendous adverse influences with which the City had to contend before there came the climax in the shape of the closing of the House. During the ten days in question our list of stocks showed a net depreciation of no less than £188,000,000, the exact figures being as follows:—

Aggregate value of 387 representative securities on July 20, 1914	£3,370,709,000
Aggregate value of 387 representative securities on July 30, 1914	£3,182,717,000
Decrease	£187,992,000

While the decline in values was of a most general character, scarcely a department escaping the general *debacle*, the collapse was most pronounced in the markets directly affected by the chief cause operating, namely, the European political crisis. British Funds, it will be seen, show a loss for the month of about £44,000,000, and Foreign Government securities gave way to the extent of about £47,000,000. Next to those departments depreciation was specially pronounced in American Railway securities, which were affected by Continental selling, while Home Railways and kindred stocks gave way in sympathy with gilt-edged descriptions. Railways in British possessions were also a very weak spot.

A CONTINUOUS DECLINE.

In noting the general bearing of this great decline in the value of Stock Exchange securities upon the financial position as a whole, it is important to remember that the decline in securities has been a continuous one, extending over many years. Our present list of stocks was selected nearly eight years ago, namely, in January, 1907, when the valuation was £3,843,000,000. Ever since that date, with some occasional interruptions, the movement has been persistently downwards, so that to-day the total shrinkage is no less than £660,000,000, and the cumulative effect of this gigantic depreciation cannot be exaggerated.