

BRITISH BANKS OPERATING IN THE U. S.

"London banks are ready to open up in New York; only obsolete American banking restrictions bar the way," says the London "Financial News," adding:

"The programme of the Mercantile Bank of the Americas, Inc., emphasizes the great progress made by America in the foreign banking field during the last few years. This bank, which has been registered and doing business in Venezuela through agents for a year and a half, is opening its own office in Maracaibo, and has taken steps to organize a subsidiary bank in Venezuela, with headquarters at Caracas and branches in other parts of that country. Arrangements are also under way for branches in Genoa and Barcelona along the lines of the offices and subsidiary companies already established in Paris, Peru, Nicaragua, and Ecuador. Further evidence of progress is afforded by the fact that the much-discussed American Foreign Banking Corporation (the stock of which is owned by a number of banks) is at last incorporated, and that various trust companies and national banks now have offices abroad. Among the latter may be mentioned the National City Bank of New York, which, with its affiliated institution, the International Banking Corporation, now possesses some 30 foreign branches.

"Largely as a result of this increased interest in foreign banking it is probable that a broader and more generous attitude will soon be adopted towards those foreign banking institutions which have established branches in New York. At the present time there, as well as in certain other States, a foreign bank's activities are restricted to the business of buying, selling, or collecting bills of exchange, or of issuing letters of credit, or of receiving money for transmission, or transmitting the same by draft, check, cable or otherwise, or of making sterling or other loans, or transacting any part of such business. No corporation, domestic or foreign, other than a national bank or a Federal reserve bank, unless expressly authorized by the laws of the State, shall employ any part of its property or be in any way interested in any fund which shall be employed for the purpose of receiving deposits, making discounts, or issuing notes or evidences of debt to be loaned or put into circulation as money."

"This extract from the New York Banking Law shows quite clearly the parochial attitude adopted towards foreign banks established there. At the present time, however, American bankers are wondering whether, if this insular attitude is maintained, they can reasonably expect to continue to enjoy unrestricted privileges abroad. The question is not altogether a new one, for the more progressive of the American bankers have realized the objections to such a very narrow outlook for quite a considerable time past. Indeed, as far back as 1911 the editor of the 'Bankers' Magazine' (American), speaking on this topic, said: 'One thing we must remember, there should be international reciprocity in banking as well as in trade. If we expect to invade Mexico, Central and South America with our banks we must expect the banks of those countries to come here. And if we restrict the operations of their banks here, we may expect them to throw like restrictions around our banks there. Already, many foreign banks have agencies in New York and other American cities, but the State laws generally prohibit these agencies from doing a banking business—that is, they may not receive deposits, and thus their ability to make loans is largely curtailed. Can we reasonably expect that Latin America will allow privileges to our banks which we deny to theirs?'"

"The answer to this question is obvious, and there is little doubt but that the best opinion in America is rapidly turning toward a broadening of the basis

FOOD SITUATION.

Instead of a bountiful supply of sugar there is a distinct shortage which must be made up by saving.

The wheat situation is decidedly acute, growing more so every day, and will be critical by spring.

The meat situation is so bad—particularly as regards pork products—that meatless days are sure to come.

The foregoing is the news brought back to Chicago by Harry A. Wheeler, representative of Food Administrator Hoover, after a trip east. The Illinois food chief said he had no desire to be pessimistic, but declared his belief that citizens should know the truth and at once do their utmost to save the situation and aid in the war.

"The Food Administration has found that it has been figuring wrong on sugar," Mr. Wheeler said. "Instead of a bountiful supply there is a distinct shortage that can only be made up by saving. We have to supply our allies, and their rations now have been reduced to a small point. England, for instance, is limiting its people to an ounce a day—hardly more than a heaping teaspoon. France, also must have more sugar.

"While the fixing of the price on sugar will mean that consumers here will pay not more than 8 1-3c per pound, we can't afford to be generous or wasteful in its use. Every pound we save can be made of invaluable service abroad."

BANK OF ENGLAND'S WEEKLY STATEMENT.

The weekly statement of the Bank of England shows the following changes:

Total reserve, decreased £143,000; circulation, increased £516,000; bullion, increased £372,839; other securities, decreased £2,868,000; other deposits, decreased £6,533,000; public deposits, increased £3,520,000; notes, reserve, decreased £117,000; government securities, increased £44,000.

The proportion of the banks reserve to liability last week was 19.50 per cent; the previous week it was 19.23 per cent.

Rate of discount 5 per cent.

RECORD WAR BOND.

President Wilson signed the bill making the \$11,500,000,000 war bond measure law on Tuesday, September 25.

The bond bill will raise \$4,000,000,000 for new loans to the Allies at 4 per cent and \$3,000,000,000 to take up the old 3½ per cent Allied loans. Two billion dollars each will be issued in treasury certificates of indebtedness running one year and in war saving certificates running five years.

The latter may be purchased by small investors in denominations as low as \$4.10, such a certificate bringing in \$5 at maturity.

The bond law also provides \$538,945,460 for the Danish West Indies, Alaskan Government Railway, Panama Canal and naval construction.

upon which foreign banks may be permitted to establish themselves there. Should the existing restrictions be removed a branch in the States will be a more useful asset than at present, and it would seem possible that certain of our great banks—several of whom have already seriously considered the question—will find in the altered conditions sufficient inducement to make them decide to open in New York."

The Standard Bank of Canada.

Quarterly Dividend Notice No. 108.

Notice is hereby given that a dividend at the rate of THIRTEEN PER CENT. PER ANNUM upon the Capital Stock of this Bank has this day been declared for the Quarter ending October 31st, 1917, and that the same will be payable at the Head Office in this City and its Branches on and after Thursday, the 1st day of November, 1917, to shareholders of record of the 20th of October, 1917.

By Order of the Board,

C. H. EASSON,

General Manager.

Toronto, September 21st, 1917.

THE DOMINION BANK

HEAD OFFICE - TORONTO
SIR EDMUND B. OSLER M.P., President
W. D. MATTHEWS, Vice-President

C. A. BOGERT, General Manager

The London, England, Branch
of
THE DOMINION BANK
at
73 CORNHILL, E.C.

Conducts a General Banking and Foreign Exchange Business, and has ample facilities for handling collections and remittances from Canada.

(ESTABLISHED IN 1836)
Incorporated by Royal Charter in 1840.
— THE —

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA

Paaid-up Capital, \$4,866,666.
Reserve Fund, \$3,017,333.

Head Office: 5 Gracechurch St., London, E.C. 3
Head Office in Canada: St. James St., Montreal.

H. B. MACKENZIE, General Manager.
Advisory Committee in Montreal:

SIR HERBERT B. AMES, M.P.
W. R. MILLER, Esq. W. R. MACINNES, Esq.

This Bank has Branches in all the principal Cities of Canada, including Dawson (Y.T.), and Agencies at New York and San Francisco in the United States. Agents and Correspondents in every part of the world.

Agents for the Colonial Bank, West Indies.

Drafts, Money Orders, Circular Letters of Credit and Travellers' Cheques issued negotiable in all parts of the world.

SAVINGS DEPARTMENT AT ALL BRANCHES
G. B. GERRARD, Manager, Montreal Branch.

ESTABLISHED 1873

BANK OF HAMILTON

Head Office: HAMILTON

CAPITAL AUTHORIZED..... \$5,000,000
CAPITAL PAID UP..... 3,000,000
SURPLUS..... 3,500,000

Business Founded 1795

AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY

Incorporated by Act of the Parliament of Canada
ENGRAVERS AND PRINTERS

BANK NOTES AND CHEQUES
CORPORATION BONDS
STOCK CERTIFICATES
MUNICIPAL DEBENTURES
and other MONETARY DOCUMENTS.
Head Office and Works: OTTAWA

Branches:—
MONTREAL, Bank of Ottawa Building.
TORONTO, 19 Melinda Street.
WINNIPEG, Union Bank Building.