

ports of gold will, in due time, serve to ease the situation in Montreal and Toronto. Probably the general public does not attach sufficient importance to the condition of the banking accounts of certain municipalities as a factor in making money scarce. A glance at the statements of position issued by a number of municipalities will show that large overdrafts at, and special loans from, the chartered banks figure prominently just now. In some cases towns with a population of less than 3,000 have bank loans exceeding \$75,000; and, of course, some of the large towns and cities have temporary loans outstanding which reach much larger figures. These loans, in most cases, represent advances secured by the municipalities pending the issue of bonds or debentures. Such loans are excusable, of course, in some cases. But it is altogether likely, and in fact it is known to be the case, in certain instances, that the municipality is deliberately withholding a bond issue in the hope or belief that it can be made on better terms in a few months or in half a year. In the aggregate these special loans to municipalities are absorbing many million dollars of banking funds. It is in the interests of the public that the loans be funded as expeditiously as possible.

### CANADIAN INDEX NUMBER AT A HIGH LEVEL.

The Department of Labour's index number of Canadian wholesale prices for the month of October was 130.3, against 128.5 in September, and 127.4 in the corresponding month of 1910. In these calculations the average prices for the years 1890-1899 inclusive equal 100. Over 200 articles, carefully selected so as to represent adequately Canadian production and consumption are included in the calculation. In October, 1910, the index number reached its highest level for that year, but it will be seen that the general level of prices has considerably advanced in the twelve months. The chief increases during the past year, contributing to this result, occurred in grains and fodders, dairy products, miscellaneous foods and metals, there being a decrease in animals and meats. The other groups being for the most part steady.

TABLE SHOWING INDEX NUMBERS BY GROUPS OF COMMODITIES FOR OCTOBER, 1911, SEPTEMBER, 1911, AND OCTOBER, 1910.

(Average Prices 1890-1899=100.)				
Commodities.	No. of	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.
		1911.	1911.	1910.
Grains and fodders. . . . .	13	160.6	153.6	131.1
Animals and meats. . . . .	14	148.1	151.4	167.4
Dairy products. . . . .	6	142.8	129.5	134.9
Fish. . . . .	9	156.0	147.1	152.5
Miscellaneous foods. . . . .	39	119.7	122.7	109.5
Textiles. . . . .	16	113.1	113.5	114.7
Hides, leather, &c. . . . .	11	140.5	141.3	135.5
(a) Metals. . . . .	18	115.5	109.1	104.7
(b) Implements. . . . .	10	101.7	101.7	105.1
Fuel and lighting. . . . .	5	99.1	99.1	101.6
(a) Lumber. . . . .	11	165.2	165.2	160.2
(b) Miscellaneous materials	11	96.3	96.3	106.2
(c) Paints, oils and glass. . . . .	14	152.3	151.9	157.1
House furnishings. . . . .	16	111.1	110.8	107.4
Drugs and chemicals. . . . .	9	107.0	107.0	108.6
(a) Furs. . . . .	4	285.2	285.2	285.9
(b) Liquors and tobacco. . . . .	4	122.0	120.3	117.1
(c) Sundries. . . . .	4	151.4	151.6	116.0
Average of all commodities	214	130.3	128.5	127.4

### THE BANK OF MONTREAL'S MEETING.

From more than one point of view, the annual meeting of the Bank of Montreal's shareholders ranks as one of the most important public financial gatherings held in Canada. In the first place, the speeches of the President and General Manager are looked for, not only by Canadian business men, but by many also living outside the Dominion, but having interests here, as really authoritative expositions of current conditions in Canada. The great facilities possessed by the Bank of Montreal for obtaining accurate information regarding conditions in every corner of the Dominion, combined with the known conservatism and wise business judgment of the speakers, give a unique importance to their statements regarding the position and progress of Canada. Happily, at Monday's meeting, Mr. R. B. Angus, the president of the Bank of Montreal, was able to speak again in the optimistic tone which characterised his speech at the annual meeting twelve months ago. "During the year under review," said Mr. Angus, "Canada has enjoyed a period of great prosperity in almost every department of trade and commerce and has undoubtedly added largely to her permanent and productive wealth. Although this has been more marked in the prairie provinces and British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces have not failed to participate."

With regard to the influx of capital into the Dominion, we are glad to note that Mr. Angus repeated his warning given last year as to the necessity of seeing that "no issue having any taint or doubtful value should be submitted to the foreign investor."

### POINTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

#### CONTINUED INFLOW OF NEW CAPITAL.

The money markets of Great Britain and the Continent of Europe have taken freely of Canadian bonds and stocks, municipal, railway and industrial. There was a brief interval of dullness but that condition seems to have passed and well vouched for securities are again in good demand. There is ample room for the employment of foreign capital in this rapidly developing country and it becomes the more imperative that no issue having any taint or doubtful value should be submitted to the foreign investor.

#### CANADA'S GAIN BY IMMIGRATION.

In immigration from Europe and the United States Canada has attracted 348,633 souls to her population, an increase over the previous year of 56,369. This item alone represents a very substantial gain. The value of each immigrant in money and property brought into the country has been variously estimated, and in the aggregate, we know it must be very great; but still more to be valued is the advantage of the advent of so many additional hands, mostly farm labourers, who repair at once to the lands which lie open to their enterprise.

#### GOOD RESULTS OF THE WESTERN CROPS.

The increasing immigration, the consequent development of new acreage and the various climatic conditions make it difficult to estimate the result of the harvest. For instance the generally accepted figures for last year ranged from 80 to 95 millions of wheat, while the final outrun showed actually 118 millions in round figures. I have from a capable and well informed source the following estimate for this year. He says with regard to the Western crops:

Early estimates made by competent judges were in the