

**BANK CASES ARE ADJOURNED.****Lawyers With Other Engagements the Chief Cause—  
Government Refused Royal Commission.**

In cross-examining Mr. Travers in the Farmers Bank case last week, Mr. Matthew Wilson, K.C., counsel for one of the defendants in the conspiracy charge, endeavored to show that the opposition of the Canadian Bankers' Association had the effect of putting the bank out of business. The general manager of the defunct institution complained bitterly of this opposition, stating that otherwise he could have made a success of the Farmers Bank. There are many qualifications of that statement. The bank was hatched in an atmosphere of fraud, Travers and his colleagues having deceived the Department of Finance. That fact alone did not augur well for the bank's success. The opposition of the Bankers' Association was based on excellent grounds. Sir Edward Clouston, its president, wrote the Finance Department, asking, "If only for the protection of the public," that the Treasury Board should exercise its right to refuse to issue the certificate until a thorough investigation had been made into significant circumstances quoted by Sir Edward. Later, Mr. John Knight, secretary of the Association, gave the Department unmistakable hints that something was wrong. Substantially, that was the end of the Bankers' Association's opposition, except, of course, that all the banks handled Farmers Bank documents, cheques and affairs as they would red hot cinders. It would have been to the credit of the Bankers' Association had their opposition been sufficiently strong to strangle the bank on its fraudulent birthday.

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The case against Mr. Matthew Wilson, K.C., and Mr. W. S. Morden, came up again in the Toronto police court yesterday and was adjourned.

The information reads: "Did conspire, confederate and agree with W. R. Travers, vice-president and general manager of the Farmers Bank, to obtain the said W. R. Travers to give the Trust and Guarantee Company fraudulent, undue and unfair preference over other creditors of the said Farmers Bank of Canada by changing the nature and claims of the said Trust and Guarantee Company against the said Farmers Bank of Canada."

The case against Messrs. J. R. Stratton, J. J. Warren and W. S. Morden came up in the Toronto police court yesterday and was also adjourned.

The charge is that they illegally accepted currency of the Farmers Bank as pledge for a loan of \$58,000, contrary to the terms of the Bank Act.

**Unable to Proceed.**

Mr. Frederick Crompton appeared before Judge Winchester on Wednesday, charged with accepting and receiving and taking in pledge, notes of the Farmers Bank, to the amount of \$50,000, contrary to Section 139, Chapter 29, of the Bank Act. Mr. Crompton's senior counsel was unable to be present, the case was adjourned for four weeks.

The hearing on the application of the liquidator of the Farmers Bank to proceed civilly against the provisional and permanent directors of that institution, was postponed late last week. The accounts of the subscriptions for shares, the accounts of the alleged payments on account of shares of stock, the accounts of the notes given by subscribers for stock, and the accounts of the disbursements for commissions, etc., are so involved that Liquidator Clarkson had not had time to prepare a report.

It will be remembered that the proceedings against the provisional directors were discontinued to enable the liquidator to begin a new action for the recovery of moneys alleged to be due from both provisional and permanent directors of their estates.

**Investors and Public Treasury.**

As noted in these columns last week the Dominion government feel there is no justification at present for the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the affairs of the bank. In reply to a question by Mr. Henderson, Mr. Fielding, Minister of Finance, said: "The government deeply regrets that a number of people who are not able to bear the loss are likely to suffer from the failure of the bank, but

in judgment of the government it would be contrary to public policy to recoup the losses of any class of investors from the public treasury."

There is vague talk of the commencement of a civil action against the Minister of Finance by the bank shareholders, charging him and probably others in the Department, with negligence. The argument is that it had been shown that the bank was not legally entitled to its charter, and hence the Minister of Finance should be held liable. It seems very doubtful whether any such move would prove wise or successful.

**WESTERN CANADA.****Activity in the West—Demand for Real Estate—In the  
Wheat Markets.**

Monetary Times Office,

Winnipeg, February 28th.

An exceptionally early spring is looked for in the West, and already the good weather has had its effect upon business and general activities.

Variations in the amount of weekly clearings are sometimes caused by unusual trading on the grain exchange, but last week was not an abnormal one in this respect, although the decline in wheat was marked. Without being able to instance the receipt of sums coming to Winnipeg several financial men were of the opinion that spring money was already being received in amounts sufficient to make an impression upon the volume of clearing.

Moose Jaw is experiencing the busiest season the city has ever had. There has been a big movement in real estate, a Winnipeg syndicate having bought heavily of Moose Jaw realty for investment purposes. A new Land Titles office will be opened in Moose Jaw early in March, which will mean a good deal to the district.

The Canadian Pacific are to spend about \$5,000,000 in, and adjacent to Calgary, a million of this going into a fine new hotel. The railway station—new only two years ago—is to be greatly enlarged, and a new office building is another of the details of the Canadian Pacific Railway's plans for Calgary. Harrod's, of London, England, are to build a big store at Calgary, and the city hopes to get the big new Hudson's Bay store which is to be built in the West.

Interest in the issue of stock of the Canada National Fire is general because of the publicity which was given to it. At the head office of the company in Winnipeg, the writer examined a large number of applications upon the forms cut from the announcement which appeared in The Monetary Times, and they came from all parts of Canada. One day last week no less than \$100,000 of the stock was subscribed for and the total to date is approximately \$800,000. At the rate applications are coming in by the end of next month this Winnipeg enterprise, it is prophesied, will have a subscribed capital of nearly \$1,500,000. This is an indication that the West is becoming more and more capable of looking after itself.

**In the Wheat Markets.**

Wheat values have had another downturn. News generally is of a bearish character, the crop advices from practically every corner of the globe, and especially from the winter wheat districts, being decidedly favorable. In the United States the prospects of the passing of the reciprocity treaty have failed to depress prices to the extent expected, and it is not believed that, if ratified, it will have the effect on values anticipated by the trade in general.

It is pointed out there that the question which affects the trade now is the finding of an outlet rather than an inlet, and that until an outlet is found on that side of the border, or until there is some evidence of shortage, there is no occasion for becoming disturbed over the prospect of an additional inlet. It is admitted that the decline in the United States has come about in a perfectly natural manner, considering the large stocks and the improved outlook in the winter wheat belt.

**Decrease in World's Movement.**

There is no material change in the Canadian wheat situation which on the surface would warrant a movement towards lower prices, but it has become mixed up with the new situation created in the United States, and has resulted rather in a settling of prices in view of the proposed tariff changes. At the beginning of the year the spread between Minneapolis May wheat and Winnipeg May was practically 10 cents; Minneapolis has now declined to within 3 cents of our local May future. European markets are steady and firm, and trade is good. The world's movement of grain shows an all round decrease, and statistics incline to the bull side, but the demand for wheat and flour continues dull, and the visible supply is liberal.