

QUEBEC PROVINCE IN GOOD SHAPE

It is Standing the Strain Better Than Any, Says Sir Lomer Gouin

The analysis of the situation in Quebec province was given by Sir Lomer Gouin, premier, to the members of the Montreal Reform Club last week. Sir Lomer stated that it had been properly said that the province of Quebec is before everything else agricultural, and it is to the development of agriculture that we ought to concentrate the very best of our efforts. The earth, an ancient minister of agriculture in France has said, is the foster mother of all industries. She has her consolation for all miseries, and she will never permit to die of hunger those who love her and have confidence in her. Many walls in China have this motto: "The public prosperity is similar to a tree. Agriculture is the root; industry and commerce are the branches and the leaves. If the root suffers, the leaves fall off, the branches are broken and the tree dies."

Cost of Living and Agriculture.

Sir Lomer continued: "At this moment when the high cost of living is continually increasing, we have recognized that the best way of remedying the evil, under which all the provinces of the Dominion are overwhelmed, is to encourage agricultural instruction, improved agriculture, agricultural co-operation, the improvement of roads, and colonization."

"In order to encourage the importation of pure-bred animals into the province of Quebec, the minister of agriculture has made loans for several years. The conditions have been made easy. During the last three years we have lent the farmers a sum of \$103,005.49, which is about \$35,000 a year. We have also extended favorable treatment with regard to the growing of mushrooms, the growing of tobacco, the dairying industry, bee keeping, drainage and instructions in housekeeping."

Progress of Agriculture.

"That agriculture has made considerable progress, and that it continues to progress methodically among us, is an indisputable fact, and it suffices to refer to the figures of the census to have the details. During the decade of 1901 to 1911, the number of acres of land in cultivation has increased to 822,261, or 3.75 per cent. in Ontario, while in the province of Quebec it has increased to 1,169,092, or 8.09 per cent. The total value of land occupied during the same decade in the neighboring province of Ontario has increased to \$178,171,394, or 23.8, while in the province of Quebec it has increased to \$287,659,453, or 82.5 per cent. In Ontario the value per acre of occupied land has increased 6.74, or 18.02 per cent. In the province of Quebec, it has increased to \$16.61, or 68.04 per cent."

The total value of the harvest, which was \$90,000,000 in 1909, had reached \$103,187,000 in 1911. From 1901 to 1911, the products of the dairy industry had increased 56.68 per cent. in value, and the value of live stock had increased to 53.87 per cent.

Province's Financial Standing.

Sir Lomer said the province of Quebec was standing the financial strain more than any other province in the Dominion. In that province, he continued, the economic situation was satisfactory, and was even brilliant when compared with that of the other provinces. He said that the province of Quebec was one of the few provinces which did not have recourse to the moratorium, and pointed out that during the month of January, 1915, there were six branch banks established in Canada. Five of these were in the province of Quebec. During the same period nine were closed throughout the Dominion, and not one was in the province of Quebec. Three were in Saskatchewan, four in British Columbia, and one each in Ontario and Manitoba. During the months of February, 1915, thirteen new branch banks were opened in Canada, and all, with a single exception, were in the province of Quebec.

The Pillsbury Flour Mills Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A., has filed a petition in the Exchequer Court of Canada, for the two following trade-marks to be registered, namely, the word "Pillsbury's," and the words "Pillsbury's," and "Best," and "XXXX" combined.

LIQUIDATOR BANK OF VANCOUVER

Mr. C. S. Smellie, Vancouver, manager of the Canada Permanent Mortgage Corporation, was unanimously nominated liquidator of the Bank of Vancouver at a meeting of depositors recently. A committee appointed to make a report as to their conversations with Mr. Ewing Buchan, who was appointed curator, stated that they had been informed that \$46,000 had been collected out of approximately \$880,000 of debts.

ABOUT THE WAR STAMPS

A war tax of one cent has been imposed on each letter and postcard mailed in Canada for delivery in Canada, the United States or Mexico, and on each letter mailed in Canada for delivery in the United Kingdom and British Possessions generally, and wherever the two-cent rate applies, to become effective on and from the 15th April, 1915.

This war tax is to be prepaid by the senders by means of a war stamp for sale by postmasters and other postage stamp vendors.

Wherever possible, stamps on which the word "War Tax" have been printed should be used for prepayment of the war tax, but should ordinary postage stamps be used for this purpose, they will be accepted.

This war stamp or additional stamp for war purposes should be affixed to the upper right hand portion of the address side of the envelope or postcard, close to the regular postage, so that it may be readily cancelled at the same time as the postage.

In the event of failure on the part of the sender through oversight or negligence to prepay the war tax on each letter or postcard above specified, such a letter or postcard will be sent immediately to the nearest branch dead letter office.

It is essential that postage on all classes of mail matter should be prepaid by means of ordinary postage stamps. The war tax stamp will not be accepted in any case for the prepayment of postage.

UNITED STATES AND "MADE IN CANADA"

Some interesting sidelights on the "Made-in-Canada" campaign are thrown by Mr. T. D. Bowman, United States consul at Fernie, B.C. He states, in the daily commerce reports dated March 25th, and published by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, Washington, that a few weeks ago Fernie and surrounding towns were placarded with large posters urging the purchase of Canadian-made goods. "So far this agitation has had no effect on the local sale of goods made in the United States," says the consul, "and Fernie merchants who were interviewed by this consulate do not anticipate any pronounced discrimination against the American products that they have carried in stock. The general opinion is that Canadians will continue to be governed in their buying by considerations of personal advantage and individual taste as formerly."

"One merchant, who deals almost exclusively in American-made goods, at first declared that he was about to discontinue selling these lines, but later admitted that he preferred to sell American goods, and that he had been much pleased to receive several cordial letters from firms in the United States whose wares he handled. In this connection it is suggested that voluntary expressions of good will from American exporters to their customers, not only in Canada but in other of the belligerent countries, might be of value at this time."

"The principal market now open for American exploitation is in goods for personal consumption. The proximity of American manufacturers, good railroad connections, convenient banking facilities, and the familiarity of the consumer with American goods through advertising in American newspapers and magazines, which are widely read here, are all factors which local dealers have mentioned as favorable to the American trade in Fernie. However, the effects of the war, combined with a dull season in coal mining, due to a mild winter and an early spring, renders the business outlook not at all good, and there is likely to be a decrease in the sales of everything except the bare necessities of life."

A United States syndicate is preparing to develop deposits of infusorial earth near St. John, N.B.