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#### **HUNTING IN** NEW BRUNSWICK

Written by

SPORTSMAN For

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in Ontario should be educated by the Press, and by the Government to purchase the securities of municipalities within this Province. Probpatities within this Province. Prob-ably nowhere on the American conti-nent, or Europe, is there such a wealthy community as little interest-ed in securities of the highest class. The suggestion that Ontario have a Department of Municipal Affairs, or a Local Government Board, is a good one. Doubtless we

shall come to this. It may be that in isolated cases municipalities have spent too much money, perhaps some of our cities have done so, but in no case has this been done to the ex-tent of endangering the security of the debentures of Ontario cities or towns, but we agree with you that all expenditures should be authorized by the Government."

This subject will be discussed further in succeeding issues .- Editor.

# MUNICIPAL BONDS

This Market is, at Least, "Open This Market is, at Least, Open A S the first half of the year was drawing to a close, investment funds, which had piled up because of the slackening of trade, were contributing to a municipal bond situation strong and active, in contrast with the drooping markets for more speculative securities. The buying of bonds, which was unprecedented for the dog days of July, because of the then rather uncertain outlook, was mainly directed towards short-term securities, and these were especially active until the Stock Exchange closed precipitately, and investors, both coractive until the Stock Exchange closed precipitately, and investors, both corporate and private ceased, for the time, to be interested in anything but the business of conserving capital. The inevitable recovery from this stagnation is only now beginning to be seen. The large financial institutions, which in ordinary times are the mainstay of the bond markets, have felt the pinch of declining revenues. Interest collections have been slow, and where payment on mortgages and other engagements have failed, trust companies, insurance companies, and other fiscal institutions have not been disposed to take extreme measures. Insurance companies have been keeping themselves strong to meet the extraordinary demands for policy loans. For this ary demands for policy loans. For this reason they have not been buyers of securities, but with them, as with the other large lending corporations, a check in the outgo of investment funds very quickly produces a considerable accumulation, and they are expecting to be buyers this autumn. The individual investor has been the first to respond. Much more individual wealth was accumulated in this country during the long period of prosperity than was revealed in the statistics of savwas revealed in the statistics of savings deposits or other commercial indices—because it was being employed, for the most part, speculatively, it is true. A great deal of it is being lost by the collapse of speculative values, but the salvage is moving cautiously into gilt-edged securities.

Old Country Cautious

THE Old Country is waiting for the complete rehabilitation of its own THE Old Country is waiting for the complete rehabilitation of its own position and has not become a buyer upon any large scale. Time is on the side of the Canadian bond seller, however, for the anathemas directed against Canadian securities in general a few months ago have lost force because the predicted awful climax to the "Canadian boom" has not come to pass. The Canadian Agency failure, the most serious blow of the year to Canadian financial prestige abroad, is now being revealed as the result of London high finance and very far from an index of Canadian affairs. In so far as it related to the municipal bond market it is perhaps only a happy accident that not one Canadian municipal security was concerned in the collapse.

#### The U.S. Market

The U.S. Market

The most hopeless position in the matter of the sale of securities exists in New York, which centre during the last few years particularly has taken a steadily increasing volume of our municipal offerings. With the first hint that England was With the first hint that England was at war, corporate buyers there dropped out of the market abruptly. The investment committees of the great corporations' boards adjourned indefinitely, and since then New York, to the bond seller, so far as business is concerned, has been almost as useless a field as Germany. There is some reason for this. One insurance company, always a good customer for company, always a good customer for Canadian securities, has millions in insurance within the war zone. It is

preparing a list of its European policy-holders between the ages of eighteen and forty, and is getting ready to pay death claims, which, at the best, will be very heavy.

#### Some Recent Loans

OUR experience in the London market this year has shown unmistakably that the bloom is off Canadian securities for the time being, although in the extent to which the Old Country public participated in our borrowings we have been in at least as good a position as other international borrowers. The percentage of our offerings shouldered upon the underwriters was rather below the average. In the important municipal loans in London this year the underwriters fared as follows:

writers tared as to	nows:	
Unde	erwriters	Amount
	took.	of Issue.
Vancouver	86	£425,000
Winnipeg	73	1,150,000
Montreal	37	1,500,000
Edmonton	60	350,000
Vancouver Drain-		
age Board	88	500,000
South Vancouver	62	223,287
Greater Winnipeg		
Water Board	97	400,000
Ti however	the rathe	r digeour-

aging results obtained in London which prompted Canadian borrowers to look to New York and elsewhere, but their experiences have shown that the Old Country must continue to be our main financial market, no matter how successful temporary expedients may be elsewhere.

Temporary Advances
THE statement of the chartered banks, showing loans to cities, towns, municipalities and school districts, throws some light on the amount of municipal securities unmarketed. In August, 1913, the banks placed the aggregate of these at \$41,310,281, and the report for August of this year, the latest available, shows a reduction to \$39,664,534. But during the first month of the war period there was an increase in the unsold and unsaleable securities in bankers' strong boxes of over three million dolstrong boxes of over three million dol-lars, and the municipal bonds now lars, and the municipal bonds now held by the banks as collateral is nine million dollars in excess of the total so used at the beginning of the year. Most of these increases are re-presented by the financing of the presented by the financing of the bigger cities, and the centres which have the largest over-drafts are each in the hands of strong bankers, who are perfectly able to carry them over a much more extended period of de-pression than is likely to be experi-

Recent amendments to the Bank Act have made municipal securities more welcome to the banks, for the more welcome to the banks, for the reason that they are good delivery to the Dominion Government in exchange for Dominion currency. At first this privilege was utilized by smaller banks only, but it is probable the larger banks will soon be accepting the relief offered, and it is not impossible that they may do so as a body, to prevent any invidious comparisons, which some of them wish to avoid. to avoid.

### The Western Prospect

PESSIMISM regarding the future of Western municipalities appears Western municipalities appears a little overdone. Several financial authorities, who are in the way of obtaining accurate information from the West, have hinted at a break in the long and proud record of Canadian municipal debentures, in the matter of interest payments. These prophecies have not been expressed beyond the circle of those immedi-

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