

there is practically complete solidarity in Germany concerning the war, is a fact which Mr. Davis claims is the main element in Germany's strength. After analyzing the situation there, he says: "Germany may go on for a year or even a little more. Then it may be want of food, or money, or men, or all together that brings her down. Always provided that her foes are able to go along at the same speed they are now showing. I do not believe that Germany can last much, if any, more than another year. If the Entente Allies can outlast that, I believe they can bring Germany down. If Germany has bad crops this year, it will be comparatively easy. If she has good crops, it will be more difficult, but still I believe it will be done, for her financial needs are driving her even more inexorably than her food situation, and no help is in sight for that."

In short, the Central Powers are weakening rapidly; the Allies are increasing in strength, and have received an important additional number this week. There is always, too, the factor of surprise or unforeseen developments in this great war. That factor may yet have an important effect upon the duration of the struggle.

UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN LOANS

That the United States government should lend its credit to the Allies to the extent of \$1,000,000,000 was the suggestion made recently by W. P. G. Harding, governor of the Federal Reserve Board. He was not speaking in an official capacity but speculation at once arose as to how far his views represented those of the Federal Reserve Board and of the government. The opinion is gaining ground in the United States that financial assistance will constitute that country's first aid to the Allies. The Federal Reserve Board has shown a distinct change of heart since its famous warning in October regarding foreign securities. There was later a disposition to co-operate to a greater extent with British and Allied financiers. With the entry of the United States into the war, liberal credits will be advanced by that country to the Allies.

If Mr. Harding's plan is carried out it would probably take the form of a bond issue by the United

States government for the amount named and the transfer of the proceeds to the Allied governments' balances in New York, on the security of the bonds of those nations. Such a procedure, placing the credit of the United States behind that of the Allies, should enable them to obtain funds in the Republic at a much lower figure than that at which they are now able to borrow. Estimates of the rate at which the United States government could borrow \$1,000,000,000 ranged between 3 and 4 per cent., $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. being the figure generally favored.

Bankers and investors in the United States are now realizing the importance of foreign credits. No better way can be devised for the use of that country's large gold holdings, than as a basis for foreign loans and the extension of foreign trade. The splendid credit of Great Britain and France before the war was a direct result of the policy which induced those nations to finance weaker countries and to promote their development, either by direct loans or by necessary credit extensions. London and Paris became international financial centres and obtained a commanding place in the world's trade. Throughout the war, despite its heavy burdens, Great Britain continued to follow this policy. It has loaned vast sums to its Allies and overseas dominions. This will be of great value in trading relations after the war. British credit has passed successfully the severest financial test any nation could have had. British credit stands unsullied.

The United States now has an unique opportunity to establish itself as a more important financial centre. The Guaranty Trust Company, of New York, expresses the proper view of the situation, in saying: "We have the capital and the credit; and if the policy of making wise foreign investments, which England followed to her decided advantage, be adopted by the United States, a forward step will be taken in making our country a creditor nation and a power both in world finance and international trade. Investment in government offerings of nations, with a long-sustained record for thrift, prosperity and honor, have behind them a guarantee that all financial experience approves and sanctions. The sacrifice and discipline of war have served to increase thrift, create greater efficiency and develop new resources. The continuation of this experience may confidently be expected."

ONTARIO SIZING UP BOND MARKET

Officials of the Ontario government are feeling the pulse of the market with a view to the flotation of a domestic loan of \$5,000,000. This issue will be made in connection with the repurchase of Ontario's securities now held in Great Britain and their refunding here and in the United States. What success is attending the provincial government's inquiries is not known, but the heavy Ontario subscriptions to the recent war loan and prospect of another war loan in September may make it advisable to market Ontario's bonds in the United States.

Hon. Senator George Gordon, North Bay, has been elected a director of the Excelsior Life Insurance Company. Senator Gordon is president of the George Gordon Company, Limited, director of the Abitibi Power and Paper Company, Limited, and the Young Company, Limited, North Bay.

Mr. B. W. Greer is president of the Vancouver Board of Trade for the current year and the other officers are: Vice-president, Mr. P. G. Shallcross; secretary, Mr. W. A. Blair; council, Messrs. W. H. Malkin, W. J. Blake Wilson, C. E. Tisdall, N. Thompson, C. Spencer, G. Blair, G. H. Cottrell, E. W. Hamber, Wm. Godfrey, R. Kerr Houlgate, F. W. Peters, and G. Kidd.

STANDARD BANK'S NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Mr. Charles H. Easson has been appointed general manager of the Standard Bank of Canada, filling the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. George P. Scholfield. Mr. Easson has had a long banking experience, and in 1912 became general manager of the Bank of New Brunswick, a position he held until the amalgamation of the Banks of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in 1913. After the union he became Toronto manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia, in which capacity he remained until the fall of 1916.

In 1916 he left the Bank of Nova Scotia, this time to become vice-president and treasurer of Brown's Copper and Brass Rolling Mills, Limited, of Toronto. This position he has now resigned. He is well and favorably known, especially in Ontario and the maritime provinces and is held in high esteem by his fellow-bankers.

Mr. Herbert G. Wilson, K.C., Winnipeg, has been appointed to succeed Mr. W. H. Curle as commissioner to administer the Workmen's Compensation Act. Mr. Curle will leave for Montreal about April 1, and will take up the position of general solicitor of the Canadian Pacific Railway system. He will be directly under Mr. E. W. Beatty, general counsel for the company.