

held in the Dominion." Whether this proves true or not, it will afford an exceptional opportunity to acquire a knowledge of the prevailing trend of commercial opinion, which must prove of great value. It is to be held in the Ontario Legislative Assembly Chamber, in the Queen's Park, and there will be forenoon and afternoon sessions, with space in the galleries for spectators. A banquet will be tendered by the Toronto Board of Trade on Thursday evening to the visiting delegates, in the Allan Gardens pavilion. Many distinguished people, members of the Dominion Parliament and various provincial legislatures, are expected to be present. Not having space to-day to mention or quote the special commercial objects which delegates are instructed by different boards to advocate, we must content ourselves with giving a list of those expected to be present, in addition to the names we have given already, leaving to another issue the statement of subjects, as they may develop at the conference itself.

## DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE.

Montreal Board of Trade: Alex. McFee, president; Geo. E. Drummond, Arthur J. Hodgson, Robert Munro, George Hadrill, secretary; James Davidson, J. C. Holden, D. Laviollette, H. D. Metcalfe, James Thom, W. W. Watson.

La Chambre de Commerce du District de Montréal: D. Masson, president; C. H. Catelli, H. Laporte, Jos. Contant, L. Geoffrion, Hon. J. D. Rolland, E. V. Roy.

St. John, N.B., Board: W. M. Jarvis, president; George Robertson, W. S. Fisher.

Hamilton Board of Trade: F. C. Fearman, W. A. Robinson, H. M. Kittson.

Halifax Board: G. D. Campbell, president; J. E. Dewolf, vice-president; Hon. G. J. Troop, H. L. Chipman.

Toronto Board of Trade: A. E. Ames, J. D. Allan, Hugh Blain, J. F. Ellis, M. C. Ellis, W. J. Gage, Edward Gurney, A. E. Kemp, M.P.; D. E. Thomson, K.C.; Charles B. Watts, D. R. Wilkie.

Winnipeg Board: John Russell, W. Sanford Evans, C. N. Bell, secretary.

Winnipeg Grain Exchange: C. A. Young, president.

Quebec Board: George Tanguay, M.L.A., president; D. T. Rattray, George E. Amyot, T. B. Dumoulin.

Collingwood: W. A. Copland, president; Jno. J. Long.

Clinton Board: W. Jackson, president; John Ransford.

Drummondville, Que., Board: J. N. Turcotte, Napoleon Garceau.

Elmira Board: N. L. Webber, J. S. Weichel.

Fort William Board: Mayor Dyke, A. McDougall.

Lindsay Board: J. D. Flavell, president; Robert Kennedy.

Mitchell Board: Walter Thomson, Isaac Hord.

Meaford Board: W. T. Moore, president; C. T. Sutherland, secretary.

Owen Sound Board: Christopher Eaton, S. J. Parker.

Orillia Board: R. O. Smith, president; E. A. Doolittle.

Oshawa Board: E. S. Edmondson, president.

Peterborough Board: D. W. Dumble, president; John Carnegie.

Stratford Board: George McLagan, president; Wm. Preston, W. J. Ferguson.

Sorel (Que.) Chambre de Commerce: J. A. Proulx, president; C. O. Paradis, mayor.

St. Hyacinthe (Que.) Board: J. N. Dubrue, A. B. Blondin, S. T. Duclos.

St. Thomas Board: J. W. Stewart, president; W. H. King.

Strathroy Board: D. Gillies, president.

St. Stephen (N.B.) Board: E. G. Vroom, president; A. I. Teed.

Smith's Falls Board: R. W. Steacy.

Sault Ste. Marie Board: W. J. Thomson.

John Dawson, W. H. Plummer, R. H. Knight, John McKay, J. Collins, S. G. Stone, secretary.

Three Rivers (Que.) Board: Jacques Bureau, M.P.

Warton Board: S. A. Perry, president.

Yarmouth (N.S.) Board: Robert Caie.

Granby (Que.) Board: W. H. Robinson, J. H. McKechnie.

Brandon Board: A. Shewan, A. D. Rankin, K. Campbell.

Nelson B.C.) Board: A. S. Goodeve.

Mariville (Que.) Chambre de Commerce: E. Guillet, president.

Chicoutimi (Que.): J. E. A. Dubuc.

Barrie: J. R. Land, Haughton Lennox, M.P.

New Westminster.

Kamloops.

Kin-cardine.

Bobcaygeon: H. J. Wickham.

## OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER.

A reader of the Sydney journals would come to the conclusion that Australia was suffering from the dread calamities of extravagant governments, drought, and the bubonic plague, and that the first evil was worse than the other two. If the duration of effects is to be considered, possibly they are not far wrong.

The plague is still with us, but in Sydney there have been only about one hundred cases, as against three hundred in the same time at the first visitation, and it is soon likely to be got under at least for a time.

The drought is worse and steadily increasing in severity as the long and even now hot days go by. It is not that there is a total absence of rain, for in some parts there have been good showers, especially in the South, but in most places they are scattered and so infrequent as to be of little effect; so that in the large portion of New South Wales and Queensland particularly, the herbage is gone; the forage crops which thoughtful farmers, and there are not too many of them, planted for dry seasons are dying. The flocks of the far West died long ago, but now the drought is raging in the coastal country, which has had dry seasons but no droughts. An old Sydneyite said yesterday: "I have been here forty years, but I never saw the trees dying as they are now."

Food products have gone up in price twenty-five per cent. in the last month or two, and some, such as butter and eggs, are nearly double what they were. There is likely to be a chance for Canada to ship even butter to Australia, if there is a Canadian firm ready to take hold of the trade in earnest. The Canadian Commissioner had enquiry last week for fifty tons of butter for Queensland for May, June, and July, but he fears not much will come out of the information he has been able to supply. The probability is, if the drought continues, that San Francisco firms, with their capital, experience, and good organization, will step in and do this trade. The rains must come speedily or Australia will want to import bread to eat (and a good deal of it), next year and some this year. And with the bread there may have to come butter, cheese, ham and bacon, and some kinds of meal.

The charges for extravagant government, are not so much charges of corrupt administration as of too many Ministers, members of Parliament, and too great borrowing to be expended in day labor on non-productive public works. South Australia, which has as Premier Mr. Jenkins, who came thither from Canada, but was born in the United States, has led the way in economy, and cut off two of its Ministerial departments and reduced the number of its members, and two or three of the States will have to follow. The craze for borrowing is insatiable. It is alleged that the several State governments have, besides expending the enlarged revenues from increased taxation, borrowed eleven million dollars in the first three months of this year and about one hundred and thirty-five millions in two years and a quarter. Making all due allowance for some repayments of old loans, this is a rate that this country cannot long stand. Day labor with a minimum wage of seven shillings per day is an admirable theory if the Government could employ everybody, and if those they do employ earned the money. Unluckily, the first it cannot do, and there is fair reason to believe that the second is not done. The number of the unemployed is great in spite of the borrowings, and if the borrowings cease there will be sore distress. Workers on the land cannot earn seven shillings per day, particularly in these dry times, and there has been a flocking to the city for Government employment. As a consequence, there were in Victoria and New South Wales three hundred thousand fewer acres cultivated last year than during the previous one. It is probable that the drought will bring things to a head and bring in an era of economy and wiser action. It is likely to create a financial pinch, but a better state of things and better weather conditions will likely come together and produce a return of genuine good times.

F. W.

Sydney, New South Wales, 22nd April, 1902.

—The Canada Landed and National Investment Company has declared its dividend for the current half-year at the rate of six per cent. per annum.