

Our London Letter.

NEW ISSUES STEADILY APPEARING.

Pre-holiday Rush of Fifteen Prospectuses—New Winnipeg Loan—Activity in Hudson Bays—Advertising Eastern Canada—Special Correspondence of THE CHRONICLE for Week Ending March 24, 1910.

That there should have been some falling-off in the extent of business this week on the London Stock Exchange is not surprising. The Easter holidays extend from to-day until Tuesday morning and, apart from the fact that after the recent rush everybody will be heartily glad to leave business for a few days, dealers have a rooted dislike to taking away full books with them. So that there has been this week a considerable amount of "evening-up," to say nothing of a continuance of the clearing-up of the odds and ends left by last week's enormous settlement. But the general tone of markets has been exceptionally good and dealers leave the city in high feather, conscious that they have had a good time and confidently expectant of a continuance of remunerative activity when markets open again next week. It may be urged, of course, that the uncertainties regarding home politics and possible developments in that direction will act as a deterrent, but, on the other hand, there is an old Stock Exchange maxim which says that when business is good, politics have very little effect one way or the other. It has to be remembered, too, that at the present time the public is very much "on the feed" after a prolonged period of abstention from Stock Exchange operations, and, judging by present indications their appetite is far from being sated. A more patent damper upon present day enthusiasm than politics would be a 5 per cent. bank rate. There were some alarms and excursions about this a day or two ago, but inquiry shows that the general opinion now is that there is no ground for uneasiness in this direction, and that a 5 per cent. rate need not be considered a probability during the next few months. It is held to be a very remote contingency.

More New Issues.

The extraordinary activity among issuing houses and promoters culminated on Monday in a pre-holiday rush of no fewer than fifteen prospectuses. These included rubber and rubber trust companies, several oil propositions, a speculative home industrial or two and the City of Winnipeg loan, of the imminence of which we heard from your side a day or two before the issue of the prospectus. This issue is of £500,000 4 p.c. consolidated registered stock due on the 1st April, 1940, two millions of similar stock being already quoted in London. The issue price is 103, and a full six months' interest is due on the 1st October next, although the last instalment of £28 per cent. is not to be paid until the 27th June. The proceeds of the loan are required to pay for local improvements and power works, etc. In one quarter the criticism was passed upon this issue that in view of the confusion in the city's finances a year or two back, Winnipeg should have been content to make it at par, but seeing that this year the stock already quoted in London has been as

high as 106 and business in it was transacted at 103 3/4 x a yesterday this criticism appears both arbitrary and captious. The lists were closed early and letters of allotment were posted by the Bank of Montreal yesterday, the original date fixed for the closing of the lists.

The 21 million Exchequer Bond issue for the redemption of the National War Loan has been subscribed for a little more than twice over, applicants receiving 43 1/2 p.c. This is a satisfactory enough result, but the matter has evoked very little enthusiasm. The Constantinople loan has been received very favourably and is quoted at 1 1/8 premium on the issue price of 99 1/2 at which it yields 5 1-16.

Hudson Bay Rumours.

Hudson Bays have been an extremely active market this week on a recrudescence of recent rumours regarding the re-organization of the company. This time rumour asserts that the house of Morgan is buying and that one of the members of the firm will shortly make his appearance on the directorate, together with a representative of one of the continental banks.

It is said also that Canadian interests are to be more directly represented on the board. The shares now stand at 107, comparing with a highest of 102 last year, and a further advance would not be surprising in view of the talk regarding the splitting of the shares and the favourable results recently achieved by the company's land and fur sales.

Quebec and Lake St. John Railway.

A new committee has made its appearance in connection with this affair—to represent the interests of the Prior Lien Bondholders. Those responsible for the creation of this committee state that while they are willing to work in amity with the original committee as much as possible there must come a time when the interests of the Prior Lien bondholders will clash with the interests of the other bondholders. A possible renewal of negotiations with the Canadian Northern is apparently anticipated by some of the leading spirits of the Prior Lien bondholders, who do not appear very enamoured of reconstruction, although apparently the first and income bondholders regard it as inevitable.

Announcement is made by the Western Canada Land Company that they have arranged the sale of a 200,000 acre block of their land over a period not exceeding four years "at a price which the directors consider satisfactory."

Criticising Canada.

The Governor of the Canada Company seems to have been—may one say it?—in a rather querulous mood at the company's meeting yesterday, judging by his speech, at all events. "The tide of immigration," he is reported to have said, "had set further away from them. The property of this company was in Ontario and the development of immigration was now towards the West and the Pacific Coast, rather than staying in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces—Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The Governments of those parts seemed to be in a lethargic condition, while the Governments in the Western Provinces of the Dominion were spending almost countless thou-