BRITISH CAPITAL AND IMMIGRATION AFTER THE WAR.

The following letter from an esteemed New York correspondent furnishes interesting confirmatory evidence regarding the accuracy of the views which THE CHRONICLE has set forth for many months regarding British capital and Canada in the future, and emphasizes the urgency of a settlement of the problem of immigration to which reference was made in last week's issue:—

To the Editor of The Chronicle:

Sir—I do not write from general observation or voice merely current belief, but have direct information of the most substantial nature which convinces me that the financial ties binding Canada to Great Britain will be extended, multiplied and strengthened manyfold after the great war has ended—so far, at least, as the willingness (within due limitations) of the English investor is concerned.

The satisfactory manner in which Canadian municipal loans have been taken up in the United States and especially the widespread interest in Canadian Government issues have confirmed English investors in their belief that they were well advised to make their former extensive commitments in this direction. But more than that, I am assured that when our English relations are again saving and investing, they will purchase good Canadian Industrials more largely than ever before. The great capitalists, the far-seeing kings of finance, are by no means found only in the United States and within the past month I have had opportunity to secure first-hand information, necessarily confidential, bearing directly upon proposed English financial activity in the direction of largely increased participation in Canadian Industrial ventures. English men of affairs feel that while there are many consequences of the titanic struggle we are now engaged in that cannot now be forecast accurately, one conclusion is pre-eminently probable. They are convinced that there will be a very large emigration to Canada, and possibly to Rhodesia and Australia, though the remoteness of these latter countries and the consequent expense of reaching them will be a deterrent upon the would-be emigrant.

They believe, therefore, that Canada, in its own interest, cannot prepare too early or too thoroughly for the flood of desirable immigrants that will land upon its shores; and that a very close co-operation between the Dominion and Provincial Governments and the Imperial Authorities looking to its successful and profitable assimilation is not only desirable but essential. That the fundamentals of such co-operation be laid at as early a date as possible seems to them a measure of wise statesmanship.

J. L. K.

New York, June 15, 1916.

The Council of the Institute of Actuaries state in their annual report that they have no present intention of resuming the normal activities of the Institute, which have been suspended owing to the war, but on the intervention of more favorable circumstances, they will at once reconsider the position.

THE DOMINION'S REVENUE.

The Dominion's revenue has made a good start for the new fiscal year. For the two months ending May 31st receipts totalled $33,172,755 compared with $21,759,296 in the corresponding two months of last year. The detailed comparisons are as follows:—customs revenue, $22,605,295 against $13,288,460; excise revenue, $3,704,368 against $3,082,348; post office, $2,800,000 against $2,250,000; public works, $3,261,008 against $2,291,272. The remarkably large increase in customs duties suggests that a good deal of importation of unnecessaries and luxuries is going on, which Canada would be better off without.

The expenditure on revenue account for the two months was $5,276,715 against $5,780,212 in 1915. Expenditure on capital account during the same period was $12,713,304 against $4,470,806. The details of capital expenditure are as follows:—war $9,733,843; public works, including railways and canals, $2,794,163 against $2,327,252; railway subsidies, $185,298 against $43,953. For the two months there is a surplus of revenue over all expenditure, of above $15 millions. But in this connection, it should be remembered that, generally speaking, the heaviest expenditures of the fiscal year come in its later months.

BRITISH BANKS AND WAR LOANS.

The London Economist, in its newly-issued banking supplement, calls attention to the remarkable growth in investments of the British banks during 1915, as a result of their hearty support of the various war loans.

Until the war the investments of the banks in marketable securities had been declining, having fallen from 17 per cent. of their total assets in 1908 to 12.6 per cent. in 1913. But the large subscriptions by the banks to Government loans have resulted in a large increase in the ratio. A year ago the proportion held by the English banks was 14.3 per cent. For 1915 the percentage of investments to resources is 27 per cent. for the English banks and 28 per cent. for all the banks in the United Kingdom.

There is an increase of no less than £164,250,000, or 112 per cent., in the investments of the English banks, and the increase for all the banks of the United Kingdom, including the Bank of England, is 83 per cent. The fact that the first war loan was only 15 per cent. paid up when the 1914 balance sheets were made up partly accounts for the great rise, while the second war loan and the Exchequer bond issue are also largely responsible. The banks do not all distinguish their Government securities from other investments, but where this has been done the British Government securities of the English banks show a rise of £160,000,000, the Scotch £17,000,000 and the Irish £10,000,000.

While in the early days the life agent working in the country might have felt that his use of a car prevented his getting into close touch with his constituents, even as the wearing of yellow gloves and spats might have done, he can now drive his own Ford down the village street without any fear of being mistaken for a bank president or a millionaire.—*Canada Life.*