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MINES AND MONEY.

The local securities markets have been sentimentally affected this week by the heavy selling of one of the leading Cobalt stocks, consequent upon the discovery that the mining property represented by this stock was becoming exhausted. This, with other happenings of the past year served to remind the investment public of the special risks connected with mining stocks. Owing to the popularity of the leading Cobalt stocks the further indication that this particular mining field is being gradually worked out had some influence upon the general market. The immediate effect of the decline and liquidation was to improve the bank position. Speculative loans would be cleaned out to some extent and the funds of the banks released for other purposes.

AN INCONVENIENT SEASON.

It is probable that but for the spill-out in the case of Crown Reserve there would have been more of a disposition in the Canadian markets to follow the very energetic recovery in Wall Street. That is to say the brokers and their clients would have some

additional desire to borrow money for the purpose of taking up the "bargains" now on the counter. The banks will probably be just as well pleased if the upset in the mining department served to deter the local speculative fraternity from undertaking new commitments in emulation of Wall Street. It is an inconvenient season for the institution of an important forward movement in Canadian stocks. As the work of crop-moving is just commencing it would seem as if the interests of the country would be best served by a quiescent market for securities during the next two or three months at any rate. For the violent rebound in New York there are some special reasons which do not apply altogether to the Canadian situation. Nevertheless the improvement in the big neighboring market should have considerable effect in strengthening the underpinning of the markets in Montreal and Toronto. While Wall Street is in such form, our financiers will be able to sell freely in that market to take advantage of any special opportunities that present themselves at home.

Call loans in Montreal and Toronto are quoted at 6 to 6½ per cent. as heretofore; and mercantile discounts range from 6 to 7.

EUROPEAN POSITION.

In the London market call money is slightly firmer—the quotation being 2¾ per cent.—but discount rates are about the same as a week ago. Short bills are 3⅝ to 3¾; and three months' bills, 3 13-16 p.c. Bank rate is held at 4½ p.c. In the absence of continental competition most of the \$2,500,000 Transvaal gold available on Monday was taken by the Bank of England. At last the fighting Balkans have commenced to demobilize their armed forces, and it is now considered certain that peace will reign in that quarter of Europe. The question of the Turkish reoccupation of Adrianople remains to be finally settled, but that will not likely lead to further hostilities.

NEW YORK DEVELOPMENTS.

Call loans in New York ranged from 2 to 2½ per cent. with most of the business done at the higher level. There was a rather limited demand for time money—the tendency being towards ease. Sixty day loans are 3½ to 4 p.c.; ninety days, 4½ to 4¾; and six months, 5¼ per cent. According to the Saturday bank statement all members of the clearing house at New York expanded loans \$5,640,000, and increased cash holdings by \$1,160,000—the net result being a decrease of \$524,000 in surplus reserve. In case of the banks alone the loan expansion was \$2,663,000, the cash gain \$4,430,000, and the increase of surplus, \$2,406,000. The surplus reserve of all members stands at \$25,683,650, and that of the banks alone, at \$25,230,500.

A BOOM IN STOCKS NOT STRANGE.

In connection with these figures it is to be remembered that owing to recent action by the Secretary of