

**No Railway Congestion.**

Up to Saturday last the C.P.R. had shipped no less than 20,651,000 bushels of wheat or 6,343,000 bushels more than at the same date a year ago. It is to be noted, however, that the total wheat actually marketed up to Saturday last (25,536,000 bushels) was only some 677,000 more than at the same date last year. Farmers are evidently not in a hurry to sell.

The annual report of the Dominion Department of Public Works states that for the storage and handling of the western crops during the 1908 season, interior and terminal elevators had a total capacity of 58,535,700 bushels. The shipments of grain by vessel from Fort William and Port Arthur increased from 28,444,645 bushels in 1905 to 45,743,336 bushels in 1908, and that though all rail shipments showed a remarkable increase, from 2,528,603 bushels in 1905 to 14,364,117 in 1908. The harbours on the Georgian Bay have now a combined capacity of 7,479,000 bushels, of which 4,000,000 is at Midland and Tiffin.

**AN EX-MONTREALER SCORES OUR STREETS.**

*The Editor, THE CHRONICLE:—*  
Sir,

After so recently enjoying the pleasures which a protracted visit to Montreal must give to one whose home it once was, it may seem rather shabby to criticise such a noted centre. But "faithful are the wounds of a friend," and the very fact of its reputation being dear, makes me jealous for its good name. First impressions may, or may not be the impress of truth, but as they are brought about by such outward demonstrations as appeal to every stranger within the city gates, I hope THE CHRONICLE will continue to use its influence towards the reclamation of its streets.

On returning to Los Angeles I could not help being most forcibly struck with its cleanliness, not only in the centre of the city, but generally. Many of your streets presented the most disgraceful reverse exhibition in this respect I believe I ever saw. Then pavements, speaking generally again, are not only kept clean here, but are as safe for all classes of pedestrians by night as by day, which cannot truly be stated of Montreal; the piecemeal work on some streets making one think of a crazy work quilt. It is a wonder to me that so few accidents occur, but I suppose citizens become high steppers by second nature, and wary of strange paths after nightfall! One other knock to conclude with. If a native Angeleno were suddenly transferred from here, and viewed the highly picturesque towering columns of wire-bearing poles along Notre Dame street in the very heart of the business section, I think he might rub his eyes to make sure if he were not asleep, and dreaming of relics of the past! Such a sight, suicidal both with regard to architectural beauty, and worse yet, people's lives, has long ago been relegated here to back history; and yet this is not the commercial metropolis of a great Dominion.

Yours truly, W. R. GILSON.

Los Angeles, Cal., October 11, 1909.

**General Financial Situation.**

**BANK OF ENGLAND RATE NOW FIVE PER CENT.**

**Another Advance of a full 1 per cent. this Week—**

**London Guards against Drain Abroad—The Difficulties in New York's Position—Is Canadian Outlook Affected?**

Following the increase of a full 1 per cent. in its discount rate, last week, the Bank of England took prompt steps to make the 4 per cent. rate effective, by borrowing the general market's funds. This is a policy which is undertaken only on certain occasions. Obviously there are times when the bank might enter the market as a borrower, take millions of pounds off the street and lock the cash in its vaults without being able to raise the market rate for money. So the directors usually wish to have a reasonable assurance that the policy will be successful before embarking on it. Next there must be some good reason for taking the action or some good purpose to serve.

**Why and How Advanced Rates are made Effective.**

On the present occasion it is not difficult to read the reason or discern the purpose—and this week's further advance to 5 per cent. emphasizes the necessitous conditions prevailing. The bank is under the necessity of providing gold for the commercial needs of Egypt, Australia, South America, and other countries, its reserve is but moderately strong, and it finds that powerful American and German speculators are eagerly clutching at its gold to enable them to carry forward their large market ventures. It appears that the advances in the bank rate and the measures taken to make them effective were well timed. For when the market's supplies of cash had been depleted to a certain extent the appearance of the bank as a borrower, ready to take large amounts at the prevailing quotations, had the effect of stiffening the outside rates at once. Call money in London is now 3¼ to 3½; short bills 4½ to 4¾, and three months' bills 4¾ p.c. The quotations show that the Bank of England is in full control of the situation, and that it can impose a higher rate upon the open market if that course is necessary to protect the English stock of gold against the raids of speculative cliques.

Rates in London are now about up to the market rates in Berlin and noticeably higher than the Paris rates. At the former centre money in the market is 4 1-8 and at the latter 2 7-8. But the Bank of France holds to its 3 p.c. rate; bank rate at Berlin is 5 p.c. A comparison of present official rates with those of a month and a year ago is instructive.

	Now.	Month Ago.	Year Ago.
London.....	5%	2½	2½
Paris.....	3	3	3
Berlin.....	5	4	4
Vienna.....	4	4	4
Amsterdam.....	3	2½	3
Brussels.....	3½	3	3

**New York's Puzzling Bank Statement.**

In New York the money situation is passing through another interesting stage. Call loans are 4½. Sixty day money is 4¾; 90 days, 5; and six months, 4¾. The bank statement last Satur-