ices of the banks were wholly voluntary and extended to the government as a patriotic service. Sincerely yours, OSCAR T. CROSBY, Assistant Secretary.

Mr. F. J. Travers, Travers & Co.,
347 Sparks Street, Ottawa.

It will be seen then that corresponding amounts obtained by the United States cost them as follows:

10 year loan	$100,000,000
3½% for 10 years	35,000,000
15 year loan	100,000,000
3½% for 15 years	52,000,000
20 year loan	150,000,000
3½% for 20 years	105,000,000
Total	$542,500,000
Total amount of loan	350,000,000
Cost of loan	192,500,000

Thus it will be seen that Canada paid $290,374,311.50 for the use of $334,625,688.14, while the United States pay $192,500,000 for the use of $350,000,000 for the same period.

This looks like economy in high places, or is it an effort on the part of the finance minister to look after his friends? However that may be, the result is that Canada, while her politicians are talking economy and patriotism, has been loaded with an unnecessary debt of nearly $100,000,000 more than the United States are paying for the same service.

A little less of such patriotism and economy and more practice of real economy and business talents will be more acceptable to this already heavily burdened country—F. J. Travers.

FARM LOANS IN UNITED STATES

A total of $111,661,905 has been asked from the Federal farm loan banks on first mortgage farm loans at five per cent. interest up to July 1. Of this amount $11,661,905 sought by the 230 farm loan associations which have been chartered by the farm loan board has been approved and the loans are now being passed out. The average amount asked by each association is a little over 50,000. The average number of farmers in each of the associations is 18, giving an average loan of nearly $2,500 for each applicant. Nearly $100,000,000 more has been applied for by the twelve banks, but has not yet been approved. Most of the loans so far made to the association run for 36 years and are retired on the partial plan by semi-annual payments, at six per cent. annual payment by the borrower retiring both the principal and interest.

Your Questions Answered

RATE OF INTEREST ON NOTE

Q.—Is there any limit to the rate of interest a money lender may charge on a note. What government passed this law and about what year was it passed.

SUBSCRIBER.

A.—The Money Lenders' Act, Chapter 122, of the Revised Statutes of Canada, states that the maximum collectable on a private note by a money lender is 12 per cent. on sums under $500. On sums over $500 it would seem that practically any arrangement can be made. Of course, on bank notes the maximum collectable is 7 per cent., but any sum may be placed on the note, and if the borrower refuses to pay that is apt to be the last business he will be able to transact with that particular bank, so that while 7 per cent. is the stated rate on bank notes in practice it does not work out at all.

The latest revision of this law that I am acquainted with was passed under the Laurier administration, at Ottawa, about the year 1900 or possibly 1902. It was originally done to overcome excessive charges on small sums made by money lenders in the province of Quebec.

Seven different bills have been introduced in the American Congress this year for the purpose of nationalizing railways and coal mines of the United States.