

## Royal Bank Declares 2 per cent. Bonus

The announcement this week that the directors of the Royal Bank of Canada had decided to again distribute among the shareholders of the institution a special bonus of 2 per cent. was favorably commented upon in financial circles here. According to popular conception, the action meant that the general economic situation of the Dominion was regarded at least with equanimity, if not with satisfaction.

Last November the Royal paid the same bonus, the action being taken in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the big institution, and similar generosity this year would seem to be the forerunner of an excellent report for the bank's fiscal period which ends with next month. The president, Sir Herbert Holt, in fact, is quoted as making a definite statement in this respect.

Canadian bankers are traditionally conservative and bonuses are not usually declared when the financial horizon is overcast.

## THE BRITISH COAL STRIKE

Should the British coal strike continue for more than a very short period it will necessarily go far toward paralyzing the industrial activity not only of England but of the whole of Europe.

Leaders of opinion in Great Britain do right to view the situation with courage, believing in the essential conservation of their own people. They are right also in the view that since the issue must be drawn at some time it is perhaps as well to meet it definitely as it is now presented and to decide once and for all the attitude of the community toward continued production of an essential commodity.

## TRAFFIC RETURNS

### Canadian Pacific Railway

Year to date	1918	1919	1920	Increase
Sept. 30 ..	\$108,138,000	\$121,186,000	\$114,203,000	\$23,017,000
Week ending	1918	1919	1920	Increase
Oct. 7 .....	\$3,458,000	\$3,965,000	\$5,356,000	\$1,391,000
Oct. 14 .....	3,594,000	4,099,000	5,689,000	1,690,000
Oct. 21 .....	3,509,000	4,241,000	5,983,000	1,742,000

### Grand Trunk Railway

Year to date	1918	1919	1920	Increase
August 31 ..	\$34,408,555	\$50,384,474	\$58,814,039	\$8,429,565
Week ending	1918	1919	1920	Increase
Sept. 7 .....	\$1,346,506	\$1,949,914	\$2,473,270	\$523,356
Sept. 14 .....	1,415,000	2,178,855	2,689,730	501,865
Sept. 21 .....	1,436,812	2,163,619	2,483,460	320,841
Sept. 30 .....	2,125,177	.....	.....	.....
Oct. 7 .....	1,469,738	.....	.....	.....
Oct. 14 .....	1,433,788	2,148,124	2,557,273	409,149
Oct. 21 .....	1,295,165	2,101,885	2,665,086	564,201

### Canadian National Railway

Year to date	1918	1919	1920	Increase
Sept. 30 ..	\$56,492,833	\$66,642,628	\$74,207,168	\$75,646,550
Week ending	1918	1919	1920	Increase
Oct. 7 .....	\$1,789,180	\$2,140,414	\$2,657,913	\$517,499
Oct. 14 .....	1,745,665	2,012,883	2,901,802	888,919
Oct. 21 .....	1,915,656	2,167,313	2,917,348	750,035

## Employees in Textile Mills Undertake to Bear a Share of Business Readjustment

Employees in the Fall River textile mills, according to current dispatches, have undertaken to divide with their employers the burden of business readjustment growing out of price changes. It is stated that they are ready to submit to a cut of 20 per cent. in wages to take effect on October 25, their purpose being to prevent the closing of the mills. The management accepts the proposed plan and announces that it will be able accordingly not only to continue but also to cut some prices still further.

Commenting on the above the *New York Journal of Commerce* say:—

It has long been evident that there was no escape from the inevitable in the process of reconstruction, and that manufacturers who found themselves beset by high costs of production would be obliged to accept the alternative of shutting down their plants or reducing costs in some way. Reduction of costs necessarily meant getting greater output or else reducing money payments to employees. It would seem that textile mill employees prefer a cut in money return to longer hours or more intensive work during their present hours, and if they do the choice is logical. It should result in rendering possible a closer adjustment of supply to demand and a better meeting of market conditions. The mill, if it is wise, will give the benefit of its lessened costs to the public so far as conditions will permit it to do so without loss.

What is now holding up the completion of the readjustment process is in no small degree the failure to pass on to the consumer the benefit of lower prices made by mills or wholesalers. Retailers are in many cases the obstacle. In others some intervening middleman, anxious to get out of the situation without loss, is the active cause of the suspension. Whatever may be the reason in any given case, the consequence of such a barrier to complete settlement is evident. It prevents demand from reviving and to that extent it hinders final attainment of new price basis. If such a price basis could be reached without friction it would mean giving to the various elements in the community about the same relative return which they now get, and would accordingly leave them as well off as they now are. It is an unwise and unfair situation which calls upon any element in the nation's industrial organization to bear the burden of readjustment which should be shared with others. The sooner price reductions are passed on to the public, as price advances have been during the past few years, the better for all concerned.