

Another Country Branch Bank Robbed in Quebec Province. A dispatch early this week gave particulars of the bank burglary at Neuville, Pointe aux Trembles. It is said that six armed men blew open the safe and took \$3,000 in cash. These performances are getting rather too frequent for the good name of the province. One does not hear of them occurring in the other provinces, at least not very often. Such things are expected in certain parts of the Western States, but we do not want to have them continue in any province this side the line. If there were six men concerned in the Neuville affair it ought not to be so difficult to track them down. Energetic action on the part of the provincial authorities is called for. At the same time it is incumbent upon the banks to have their defensive arrangements in good order. If there should be a succession of burglaries perpetrated upon one or two particular banks, the public may suspect that the banks selected are perhaps neglectful in the matter of guarding themselves.

Seeding in Western Canada Practically Finished. With the close of this week seeding in the Western Provinces is practically finished. This makes a remarkably early seeding, and it is to be hoped

that the portion of the crop which was put in the ground before the cold spell of mid-April materialized has not suffered injury. There appears to be a variety of opinions regarding this matter—some authorities claiming that considerable damage was done. However, the officers in charge of several leading experimental farms declare that the damage will be slight. These men should know what they are talking about; and their published views should have more weight with the public than those of parties in the grain trade who are interested in disseminating information calculated to make grain prices move up or down. Another fine yield this year in the West will do much to stimulate the immigration movement which means so much to us.

Cobalt and the Rise in Silver. Although the Cobalt mines are now getting some of the power which they were so long expecting, there is not as yet any remarkable increase in the volume of the weekly shipments. Perhaps the smallpox scare is responsible for keeping down the output. When the full quantity of power for which need exists is delivered at the camp probably the figures of the output will rise. The appreciation in the price of bar silver is one thing that will stimulate the mine managers to increase their production. The Star calculates that if the present price of bar silver is maintained the mines will make an extra profit of \$600,000 in the year, provided their output is the same as last year. There is considerable

talk of the coming merger of mines. Possibly enough there will be substantial savings effected through consolidation of several of the leading properties. But it is hardly to be desired that one interest should gobble up all the good producers in Cobalt.

Federal Control of Insurance. Congress has been asked to pass a law recognizing insurance as inter-State commerce and as such subject to Federal control. Mr. Darwin P. Kingsley, President of the New York Life Insurance Company has been an ardent advocate of Federal supervision of insurance under a bureau properly authorized by Congress. A circular has been issued to the field force of the New York Life asking them to use their influence with Senators and Representatives in favour of the Bill to be introduced in Congress. This is a move in the right direction and it is to be hoped that it will be successful.

The City Council and the Board of Control. The Montreal Aldermen and Controllers held a conference at Quebec on Wednesday and arrived at a happy agreement upon the points at issue between them. The understanding is that suggested by THE CHRONICLE. The City Council is to have a limited control over the reports of the controllers. It can accept them by a simple majority vote, but can only amend or reject them by a two-thirds vote. Speaking on this subject last week THE CHRONICLE said:

"THE CHRONICLE took the broad ground many years ago (1896-1898) that the practical administration of civic affairs should be transferred to a Board of Control subject to the veto of a two-thirds majority of the Council. We are still of the opinion that a requirement of this kind while giving a practically free hand to the controllers would afford an ample guarantee against the bad faith or incapacity of any controllers that may be elected. This does not mean, of course, that the judgment of the controllers in the appointment, suspension or dismissal of minor officials, the purchase of supplies, or the granting of short term contracts should be subject to review by the Council. This distinction is made by the Act of 1909, the clauses of which already provide ample guarantees against the efficient administration of civic affairs by the board, being interfered with by the influence of ward patronage. The new system is practically a bi-cameral system and this is the wisest interpretation of the existing charter for the interpreting Act of 1910 to make."

Canadian Bank of Commerce. The Canadian Bank of Commerce has declared a quarterly dividend at the rate of nine per cent per annum payable June 1.