The Chronicle

Banking, Insurance and Finance

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881

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MONTREAL, OCTOBER 18, 1918

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THE GENERAL FINANCIAL SITUATION

The large-scale German retirement in France and Belgium, and the continuation of war developments favourable to the Allies, have again absorbed much of the attention of financiers here, in the United States and in-Britain and France. Needless to say, these events are also engaging the public attention in Germany and Austria-the effects produced in those countries being in sharp contrast to those in The new evidence in the various Allied countries. German war loan is understood to be a bad failure; and the news of Bulgaria's surrender, along with that of the Allied successes in France, was followed by panicky conditions on the Berlin bourse. There is no doubt that the German people at present are keyed up with hopes that peace will follow the recent announcement of their new Chancellor. In their eyes his statement that Germany would accept the peace terms laid down by President Wilson left nothing in the way of the return of peace. The people of the Allied countries who know the worth of official German words, do not, however, believe that the German Government has as yet any intention of accepting in full all the terms contained in President Wilson's recital. Most of them believe, too, that the Kaiser and his war lords will never accede to those terms until the German armies are scattered or destroyed. This last eventuality may conceivably be not far distant; and in all probability this, rather than Prince Max's message to Mr. Wilson, is what the Wall Street securities market has had in mind in its recent markings up of values. Should Wall Street a little later decide that the Allies can so dispose of the German armies as to ensure peace within the next three months, we may expect to see further important demonstrations in that market, which, not unlikely, would react upon the market position here.

The course of the international exchanges latterly has been such as to leave no doubt as to the general concensus of neutral opinion regarding the approaching termination of the war. Exchange between Holland and New York and between the Scandinavian countries and New York has been moving steadily in favour of the American centre; and Russian roubles have been moving steadily upward. The improvement in the position of Russian bonds is said to be due to buying based on the theory that the break-up of the German hold on France and Belgium will be followed necessarily by a loosening of the Teutonic grip on Russian territory. Some of the internal Russian bonds are now quoted in New York at more than double the prices prevailing last spring. It should ne mentioned that the surrender of Bulgaria, with its suggestion of a Turkish surrender to follow, also helped the market position of Russian bonds. When the Allies have free communi-

cation with the Ukraine, through Bulgaria or through the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, interesting developments may be expected in that part of Russia and in Rumania.

Canadian industrial companies continue to come forward with statements of extraordinary profits. Even those who expected an excellent showing by the Ogilvie Flour Mills Co. were surprised by the figures given in the report. It was thought at the time that the \$1,519,000 of net profits earned in 1915 would stand as the high record for a number of years; but the \$1,955,000 shown on the present occasion overtops the 1915 record by a considerable margin. It is understood that the large profits from sources other than flour milling were largely due to the rise in prices of coarse grains. These great profits have sufficed to create enormous reserves against emergencies after providing for the large bonuses and increased regular dividends. While the shareholders benefit greatly from the generous dis-tributions, it may be said that the Dominion Treasury will also have a handsome participation, as a result of the application of the excess profits tax.

The premium on New York funds at last is showing signs of weakening, as the grain movement in Western Canada attains momentum. During the whole month of September the receipts of wheat at Winnipeg did not amount to more than 10,000,000 or 12,000,000 bushels, an average of say 400,000 bushels per day. Since the commencement of October the daily average of receipts has been three times as much, and this increase would naturally have some effect on the market for New York funds as soon as the grain shipments could be converted into export bills negotiable in New York.

A side-light on the ups and downs of the munition industry is given by the Russell Motors Co.'s annual report. The report states that at the beginning of the fiscal year, the company was working at capacity with orders in time fuses, graze fuses, and 9.2 shells. In August came instructions to cease work in all these departments, "so that practically the whole of the company's organization was thrown out of employment and its equipment left idle." Almost at once, orders were, however, received for 6-inch shells to take up the capacity previously engaged upon 9.2 shells, and later orders for parts of fuses were received from the United States Government. Then, the contract for 6-inch shells having been completed, the plant was again reconstructed for the manufacture of shells for the United States Government. Now the munition makers have to take more closely into their calculations the uncertainty as regards termination of the war.

Money rates in New York are firmly held. Call loans are quoted at 6 per cent., and when the col-

(Continued on page 1077).

THE CHRONICLE



MONTREAL, OCTOBER 18, 1918

THE CHRONICLE

No. 42 1075



THE CHRONICLE



The Chronicle

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1918

THE GENERAL FINANCIAL SITUATION.

(Continued from Front Page). lateral is all industrial the rate is $6\frac{1}{2}$. Time, money and mercantile paper also rule at 6 p.c. In their Saturday statement the New York clearing house banks reported a loan decrease of \$29,600,000, and a deposit increase of \$16,000,000. The excess reserve increased \$14,800,000-the total rising to \$51,500,-000. Government deposits, against which no re-serve is required, decreased \$70,000,006.

WHAT VICTORY LOANS MEAN TO CANADA. By E. R. WOOD.

One year has elapsed since we prepared to subscribe the first Victory Loan (our fourth loan) issued in November, 1917. We then realized clearly, and for the first time, that Great Britain had reached the point at which she was compelled to borrow funds in the countries in which she is making her war purchases. This was, and is, an extremely important consideration for Canada, because our activities, prosperity and assistance in the war, depend almost entirely on our ability to market our factory and farm products in the United Kingdom.

When we were asked to subscribe to the Victory Loan we were enjoying what we may term the prosperity of war, due to the vast volume of orders placed in Canada by the United Kingdom. These war orders were, and are, the backbone of our general position.

The great business activty resulting from the issues, created additional funds for investment. In due course, it afforded sufficient surplus funds in our own country to finance, not only the requirements of war, but also credits for the United Kingdom and loans to our provincial governments and municipalities. During the first eight months of 1918, Canadian investors having taken the large Victory Loan of last fall, have also been able to finance our provinces and municipalities to the extent of \$60,000,000, as mentioned above. In addi-tion \$50,000,000 of the 1917 Victory Bonds have changed ownership, being bought by bona fide investors from holders who found it necessary or desirable to lessen their holdings. This wide and continued interest in the Victory Bonds is no doubt due to some extent to the fact that the Canadian people have been educated by the Victory Loan campaign to invest their savings in Dominion Government Bonds.

It ought to be clearly understood that in approaching our next Victory Loan, we are faced with an equally serious situation. Only by the complete success of our 1918 Victory Loan can we continue to finance our requirements and carry on generally in the way we have during the past seven months.

Our prosperity during the past year was a direct result of the response to the loan issued last fall.

of the war. There is not a legitimate reason why on this occasion we cannot better the results of the previous We have done well in the past, both in the Loan. aggregate and per capita. At the same time, we realize that our position in Canada is a fortunate one, compared with that in European countries which are in the immediate zone of war. No one can reasonably contend that we have yet achieved the best possible results in regard to the raising of War Loans. The evidence of better latent efforts are apparent on every hand. It remains only to organize and give effect to them. For example, while the total bank deposits in Canada on 30th November 1917 were \$1,547,000, they had decreased to only \$1,541,083,788, on 31st July, 1918, a com-paratively trifling decline of under \$6,000,000, while the deposits in Canada at 31st July, 1918 are \$160,-000,000, greater than 31st July ,1917. This excellent record was achieved despite the subscription of the 1917 Victory Loan of \$416,000,000, despite the absorption of \$50,000,000, of those bonds sold by holders during this year, who desired to realize, and despite the purchase by our investors of \$60,000,000, provincial and municipal bonds. These are sub-stantial indications of Canada's ability to subscribe another large Victory Loan, because the national activities allowing the nation to make such a recodr as outlined above, have continued in a marked degree, making it possible to repeat and better the 1917 Victory Loan and general record of the country.

FARMERS IN SASKATCHEWAN AND THEIR CREDITORS

In sections of Saskatchewan, where the crops this year have been exceedingly poor, Hon. Mr. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture for the Province, has announced the willingness of his department to assist in every way possible as intermediary between farmers and their creditors.

Many such farmers find themselves actually unable to discharge their liabilities. The situation is com-plicated in a further degree by the Board of Grain Supervisor's order prohibiting farmers on a number of railway lines from shipping what grain they have out of the province, and by the fact that the banks, mortgages companies and others who have been crediting the farmers are anxious to get their assets in good shape because of the coming Victory Loan, with its great demand upon the cash assets and the credit of the whole country.

Mr. Motherwell's idea is not at all that the Department of Agricultural shall propose to deny creditors the right to collect; the idea is that the department will simply act as intermediary in negotiations between farmers who are not in a position to clear off their indebtedness and their creditors, and possibly to allay harsh measures that might be It is vitally necessary that the creditors taken. of farmers in the drought area should not force them too rigorously and so prevent their operating on ah

equal or greater scale next year. The service which Mr. Motherwell announces, that his department stand ready to furnish to the best of their power, is one which is in the national interest.

THE CHRONICLE

MONTREAL, OCTOBER 18, 1918

$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	The Home Bank of Canada Original Charter 1854 Branchos and Connections throughout Canada MARTEAL OFFICES Transportation Bidg., St. Jamos Street Macheiaga Branch: Cor. Davidson and Ontario Street
BANKOF HAMILTON ESTABLISHED 1872	ESTABLISHED 1873 THE Standard Bank of CANADA
Capital (Authorized)\$ 5,000,000 Capital (Paid Up)\$ 3,000,000 Reserve and Undivided Profits 3,500,000 Total Assets Over	QUARTERLY DIVIDEND NOTICE No. 112NOTICE is hereby given that a Dividend at the rate of THIRTEEN PER CENT. PER ANNUM upon the Capital Stock of this Bank has this day been declared for the quarter ending October 31st, 1918, and that the same will be payable at the Head Office in this City, and at its branches on and after Friday, the 1st day of November, 1918, to Shareholders of zeord, the 19th October, 1918.By Order of the Board, C. H. EASSON, General Manager.
Montreal Manager	Toronto, September 21st, 1918.

Aggregate Assets 31st March, 1918 335 BRANCHES and AGENCIES in the Australian States, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua (New Guinea), and London The Bank transacts every description of Australian Banking Business. Wool and other Produce Credits arranged freed office: GEORGE STREET, SYDNEY. Bank of Bank of Canada Bank of British North America Bank of British North America

OGILVIE FLOUR MILLS COMPANY.

The annual statement for the year ended Aug. 31st last of the Ogilvie Flour Mills Co. Limited, published on another page shows net profits of \$1,955,414, after payment of interest, taxes, etc., as compared with \$1,358,847 for 1917. The profits are the largest in the history of the Company by a substantial margin. The turnover for the year was \$56,657,117, of which \$40,412,848 was on the sale of the products of the Company's flour mills, the profits from the operation of which netted \$832,910, a very moderate ratio of 2.06 p.c. on the turnover. Profits from other sources and investments jumped from \$637,808 in 1917 to \$1,122,504 for the year under review.

Surplus after all charges and dividends for the year amounted to \$1,140,414. This with the previous surplus of \$190,177 makes a total of \$1,330,592.

Following is the profit and loss statement in comparison with the two years preceding:

parison with the two years	1918	1917 \$ 721,038	1916
Mill. profits	\$ 232,910	637,808	
		\$1,358,847 140,000	*\$774,270 140,000
Balance Com. dividend	\$1,815,414	\$1,218,847 625,000	\$634,270 300,000
Surplus Prev. surp	\$1,140,414	\$593,847 846,330	\$334,270 512,060
Total surplus Conting. account	\$1,330,592	\$1,440,177 1,250,060	\$846,330
Total P. & L		\$190,177	\$846,330

*After payment of war tax for two years to August 31, 1916.

The strong cash position, presented in the balance sheet is in a large measure due to liquidation of inventories, resulting in the present Government policy of control over stocks of wheat and flour. Inventories at \$1,462,916 are a little more than a half the total of a year ago. Bills and accounts receivable are down nearly \$800,000. But cash has increased from \$259,071 to \$1,078,472, and investments have jumped from \$1,148,083 to \$6,575,149, the latter including no less than \$4,896,900 Canada war 'oans, and treasury bills.

The company's contribution to income and busiaess profits taxes, again exceed the dividends paid to holders of the common stock. The company has a very extensive system of elevators in the West.

A leading feature of the balance sheet is the transfer from the old contingent account to a new rest account of the sum of \$2,500,000, and the creation of a new special contingent account of \$1,596,-407, apparently provided for before striking off the year's profits. The total assets have increased from \$12,363,865 to \$16,484,510.

Mr. W. A. Black, the vice-president, informed the shareholders that the outlook for this year is hardly as promising as last. Firstly for the reason that the Government has felt it necessary to adopt the use of the same quantity of substitutes for flour as is used by our Allies, which means a reduction in the use of wheat flour in Canada by some 20 p.c. Secondly, the export outlook is not considered as bright. However, the shareholders of this well managed institution are likely to have satisfactory returns continued.

PERSONALS.

Mr. Harold Hampson of Robert Hampson & Son, Montreal, General Agents for Canada, Insurance Company of North America, has returned from a business trip to the coast, where he visited Victoria, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, and other centres where important agencies Mr. Hampson inof his company are located. forms us that the West was favoured with a month's splendid harvest weather in September. He states that the grain crops in Northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba are mostly threshed. Referring to the coal mining industries in the two big coal centres, Alberta and British Columbia, Mr. Hampson heard a great many bitter complaints about the high wages being paid coal miners, sixty per cent. of whom are aliens, earning With such high wages, Mr. about \$8 per day. Hampson learned that these aliens are actually in some cases buying up the farms of Canadians who have gone to risk their lives at \$1.10 a day. The opinion is expressed that as a result of the wages being paid these alien miners, who are members of the labour union, the price of coal is unduly heightened

Mr. Hampson also visited Chicago, where he learned that the companies had a very efficient printing bureau in operation, in addition to other work, some of the companies utilizing the bureau for the printing of policies, this was found to result in considerable convenience to agents, and economy to the companies. This report should be encouraging to companies in Montreal, who are in favour of having their own printing bureau in this city.

Mr. A. K. L. Ellis, who has for the past five years been connected with the Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Company, Limited, Head Office, Montreal, acting in the capacity of Superintendent of their Automobile Fire Insurance Department, has severed his connection with that company, and is associating himself with R. W. Marshall, Limited, Brokers and General Agents of the Globe Indemnity Company of Canada, and Maryland Casualty Company Plate Glass Department, and hopes to take up his new duties in the course of the next few days.

CAR AND GENERAL INSURANCE CORPORATION LIMITED

Rumours have been prevalent for some time, in connection with the Car and General Insurance Corporation of London, England, entering the Canadian field for the transaction of Fire and Automobile business. The title adopted by the Car and General in the year of its formation (1903) shows at once the raison d'etre of the concern, for it was the pioneer in the business of insuring that essentially modern production—the Motor Car. In addition to this special class of business, however, it issues fire, accident and employers liability insurance policies, so its programme is a comprehensive one. As is generally known the Corporation is under the control of the Royal Exchange Assurance of which latter institution Mr. Arthur Barry is the Canadian manager.

THE CHRONICLE



MR. H. B. F. BINGHAM

Mr. H. B. F. Bingham, well and favourably known throughout Canada for some years as Superintendent of the life department of the Phoenix of London, became general manager of the British Oak Insurance Company, London, England, on October 1st. This institution has a paid up capital of \$1,250,000 and authorized capital \$5,000,000. Mr. Bingham's many friends in Canada will wish him success in his new and important position. He will likely visit Canada in the near future.

MORAL HAZARD

In a recent article on this subject The Spectator one of our ablest insurance journals, has this to say:

"Another precaution which is taken by many fire underwriters is to investigate the character of the other tenants in a building in which they are offered a risk upon property of a party who is personally acceptable. There is always the chance that some party with an unsatisfactory fire record may be a close neighbor of the acceptable concern, and this fact might lead to the declination of the otherwise good risk.

"From the foregoing it will be seen that there are many definitions of the generic term 'moral hazard,' and there are many others which have not been touched upon in this article. In brief, it might be said that 'moral hazard' embraces every fact or condition, aside from a mere physical fire danger inherent in a property, which would have any influence upon the desirability of insuring the property, from the underwriter's viewpoint."

A man should not only keep his record clear, but look after his neighbor's, for in the insurance business also a man may be "judged by the company he keeps."

LOADING UP ACCIDENT POLICIES WITH F2ILLS.

Our esteemed contemporary The Bulletin in its issue of October, 1918, is to be congratulated for timeously sounding a word of warning anent the practice of loading up accident insurance contracts with frills and extraneous special benefits.

It is pointed out in this journal that one or two companies ready to sacrifice everything to get volume of premiums have added these extraneous features instead of developing the policy along the lines of giving more real coverage. On reading further it is apparent that the purpose of the article is not to imply that more real coverage should be given in place of these frills, because it states later on that the addition of so many extaneous features has left no margin of safety in the premium.

It has been quite apparent for a number of years that the Personal Accident loss ratio has shown a distinct tendency to climb upwards and it is well known to underwriters that the accident ratio is greatest in places where work is performed at increased speed; in other words the accident ratio is directly related to speed of construction production or transportation. Whenever production changes for greater speed the accident ratio appears to have kept pace. In the matter of transportation the replacing of the horse by automobile has had a profound effect on the accident ratio.

The frills attached to the accident policy are for the most part old. They have played an important part right through the development of the business, commencing with the Limited Disease Clauses and double benefits for travel accidents.

It would be scarcely possible to blame one Company more than another for the introduction of these clauses. All Companies have been willing to add them to their policies. It has lately been apparent however, as the "Bulletin" aptly points out, that the safety margin in the matter of claims ratio has now been reached, and probably passed.

Whilst it was considered in the past that a very remote liability existed under these clauses and that it was worth assuming this for the advantage derived as "talking points", it is now found that an excessive claims ratio has been reached on the policy as a whole, and there is no longer a margin left to support the frills. Even at that some of the frills have been found not to be so profitable as they were believed.

In the earlier days the large American Companies led in the matter of frills, and to-day it might be said the reverse is the case. Those Companies with large volumes of premiums have been able to appraise the approximate value of each clause.

Many of the British and Canadian Companies operating in the Dominion maintain frills which the American Companies are discouraging. In the meantime certain American Companies believe they are well able to sell a policy excluding many of the usual features at a reduced premium and in some cases they are willing to add certain new indemnities, (particularly to the sickness form, by the addition of special benefits or by removing the limit of the period of disability) but for these new benefits an extra premium is obtained. As far as the American Companies are concerned it is interesting to note that the Beneficiary and Accumulation clauses are being less advertised than ever before, and in fact we do not believe the prospect would ever hear about them unless he brought the matter up himself.

It is particularly worthy of note that whilst the originators of certain frills appear to have drawn them up in such a way that there was little liability attached, these appear to have been copied and recopied into other contracts in such a way that they do represent a very heavy liability; for example, while some companies interpret Sunstroke, Freezing, Blood-poisoning, etc. as an accident, other policies are much more restricted in their wording and interpret them merely as bodily injuries. This, no doubt, arises from a tendency to meet apparent competition when no very real competition exists; that is to say by altering the form of wording (intentional or otherwise) a frill carries with it considerably more liability than applied to that of the original competitor.

However, the practice of giving more or less imaginary benefits is as bad as giving real benefits for nothing, and neither should find any place in accident business. The solution of the difficulty would be in the adoption of standard benefits, and it is impossible to understand what objection there can be on the part of any Company to such standardization.

THE CHRONICLE



No. 42 1083

Help Others to Help the Nation

How necessary it is that the Victory Loan 1918 should be a splendid success needs no demonstration to men in touch with the business and financial situation in Canada.

Upon the success of Canada's Victory Loan 1918 depends the continuation of Canada's splendid war effort and the business prosperity which is so essential to that effort.

Every business man can help to make the Loan a success by constituting himself a committee of one to influence others to buy Victory Bonds.

A suggestion here, a word there, a little explanation, a little help to those who do not understand—in a score of ways, each business man can make himself a centre of Victory Bond influence in his own community.

It is not only a privilege but a patriotic duty for every business man to do this.

Buy and Help Others to Buy Victr y Bonds

Issued by Can 's Victory Loan Committee in co-operation ith the Minister of Finance of the Dominion of Canada

THE CHRONICLE



MONTREAL, OCTOBER 18, 1918

The rapidly-moving events of the last few weeks bring into prominence a consideration regarding the longer future of Victory Bonds, which is of very considerable importance, but naturally tended to be overlooked, while there were no distinct signs of the approaching end of the world conflict. Whatever may be the course of financial events in the period immediately following the war, there can be no question that sooner or later, Canada will necessarily resume its former position as an extensively borrowing country. Enormous amounts of capital from abroad will be essential for the exploitation of our natural resources, the development of our industries, the improvement of our transportation facilities, and the provision of the thousand and one necessities for the health and comfort of expanding urban and rural communities. To what extent and through what agencies, that necessary capital will be procured remains to be seen. But it may be said in this connection that Canada, after the close of the war, will probably occupy a favoured position among the younger undeveloped borrowing nations.

However that may be, it is clear that through their large holdings of Government War Loans, Canadians are providing themselves with a means of securing capital from abroad after the war that is likely to be extremely useful. When the Government's series of domestic War Loans finally closes, probably about 1,500 million dollars, or slightly more, of those bonds will have been issued, 90 per cent., or an even larger proportion being actually held in Canada. These bonds will make the finest possible collateral for loans, they will be readily marketable among purchasers of high-grade securities abroad, and their market price will tend to move upwards as they become thoroughly "digested," and money rates begin to move downwards. It may therefore, be fairly anticipated that during the years following the war, these bonds will prove a most valuable aid to securing supplies of new capital from abroad for our industrial and commercial development, either through their use as collateral, or their sale outright at a price giving the Canadian holders a reasonable profit. Such use of these bonds is certainly likely in the case of corporations, which at present have a certain amount of funds available for investment in these bonds, but for one reason or another are precluded from undertaking extensions to their plant or organisation until after the war's close, and it may be expected that individual Canadians will not be less enterprising and aggressive. So that, in fact, the economic duty of subscription to Victory Loans has a two-fold aspect. It means not only a continuance of industrial and commercial activity while the war lasts, through Government purchases and the granting of credits to our Allies for purchases here, but it means also, the building-up of an invaluable reserve fund against the day when it will be possible, provided that the necessary capital is forthcoming, to resume the activities of peace, even more energetically, and perhaps more wisely, than in the days prior to 1914.

A CRIMINAL OFFENCE

Life insurance agents in the west appear divided in their opinion as to the wisdom of the decision of the Superintendents of insurance for Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, to make it a criminal offence for a life insurance agent to induce a policy-holder in one company to switch to another.

They are unanimous, however, in declaring against the practice. It has long been forbidden by the best insurance companies, and, as pointed out by Harry Ellis, vice-president of the Calgary underwriters, it is manifestly unfair to the person taking out the policy, as it means a loss to him of the money paid on the policy already in existence. Doubt is expressed as to the ability to enforce the law in this respect, and, in general, regret is expressed that it should be necessary to make it a criminal offence in order to stop the practice.

CANADIAN FIRE RECORD.

Fire at Halifax.—By the fire which occurred on the 4th instant on the premises of F. Riordon & Co. (Paints, etc.) the following companies are interested. On stock loss total.

Northern	\$2.000	Phoenix, London . \$1,000	
Continental	2,500	Canadian 800	
Union of Canton.		Phoenix, Hartford 2,000	
Royal Exchange .		Fid. Underw'ters. 1,000	
Acadia.	0.000	Com. Union 2,000	
L'Union		Norwich 5,000	
Canadian		L. & L. & Globe 3,000	
t. Royal		Nth. Pittsburg 3,000	
B. Can. Und		Union, Paris 4,000	

On building owned by Hoaple (loss 90 p.c.), \$30,000 in Union of London, Great American and Globe & Rutgers.

Fire at Woodstock, N.B.—On the 13th instant a fire occurred on the premises of F. Jones' barber shop, Woodstock, N.B., spreading to adjourning property. Insurance, North America, loss \$3,150.

CANADIAN LOSSES HEAVIEST IN THE WORLD.

Why is it that Canada, in this so-called enlightened age, produces the heaviest losses in the world? The answer can be found in the well chosen remarks of the Hon. Robert Stone, a member of the Kansas Legislature:

We are a nation of money-makers, Europe is a people of money savers; we are a people of waste, they are a people of thrift. We figure that the most important thing is to make a dollar, and they that it is of equal importance to save one. This is evi-denced in our hurried construction of inflammable buildings, and in their slow and solid masonry; in our willingness to pay a high rate of fire insurance with the attendant risk, and their insistence on a low rate and unceasing care; in our elaborate fixtures for the putting out of fires, and their precaution in preventing fires. We regard fire as a misfortune and sympathize with the man who has had one; they regard fire as a crime and investigate and punish the man who is guilty. Our temperament is also shown by the different view we take of an insurance policy. Here, if our property is insured and we have a fire, we do not count it as a loss—simply that we have transferred the loss to other and distant shoulders. There, the insurance is regarded as a tax, which is ultimately borne by the whole community. Here, we figure that the insurance company restores the loss; they, that it really indemnifies the owner for a loss that can never be restored. Here, we figure that a fire is an exchange of property for the ready money; there, they figure that fire is an absolute loss of toil and natural resources. We figure a fire is a misfortune, they figure a fire is a crime. We endeavour to extinguish the fire; they labour to prevent it."

THE CHRONICLE



MONTREAL, OCTOBER 18, 1918

THE CHRONICLE

No. 42 1087





No. 42 1089

THE OGILVIE FLOUR MILLS CO., LIMITED

REPORTS and BALANCE SHEET

For year ended August 31st, 1918, presented to the Shareholders at the Seventeenth Annual Meeting, held at Montreal, Que., October 10th, 1918.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

A Balance Sheet showing the Assets and Liabilities of the Company, also Profits for the year, is submitted.

The Company's accounts have been audited by Messrs. Creak, Cushing & Hodgson, Chartered Accountants, whose

report is presented herewith. The Concerning Pension Fund now amounts to \$253,644.9"

You will te that the amount of last year's Contingent Account has been transferred to Rest Account, and a Special Contingent Account established.

Provision has been made for the maintenance of the Company's various properties at the highest possible state of efficiency.

The usual quarterly dividends were paid during the year on the Preferred Stock, and four quarterly dividends of 3% were paid on the Common Stock, together with a bonus of 15%, which was paid on the 1st instant.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHAS. R. HOSMER, President.

VICE-PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS.

Adressing the shareholders, Mr. W. A. Black, the Vice-President and Managing Director, said:

It is with much pleasure that we present to our shareholders another very satisfactory statement.

On account of our inability to secure sufficient wheat, the On account of our inability to secure sufficient wheat, the output of our flour mills during the past year was somewhat less than the previous year, the supply of wheat for all Can-adian mills being under the control of the Food Board, which allotted to the mills a proportionate share of wheat that was available for the mills to grind. The capacity of our cereal mills was increased during the year, the output being materially increased, and finding ready sale at satisfactory prices.

ready sale at satisfactory prices. Our trading in grains and other commodities was large and profitable, and these profits, together with income from investments, give us nearly sixty per cent. of our total profits.

The turnover for the year was \$56,657,117, of which

\$40,412,848 was on the sale of the products of our flour mills, the profits from the operation of which netted us \$\$32,910.50, the profits from the operation of which netted us \$\$32,910.50, or only a shade over 2% (2.06%, to be exact), on the turn-over, a figure which is, indeed, very low, and only possible of returning a reasonable profit on account of the very large amount involved. I have particularly drawn this matter to your attention because the impression seems to prevail with some that the flour profits are unduly large, which these figures clearly demonstrate is not the case. Realizing that our business is much more subject to market changes than is generally the case, it has been the policy of your Directors to carry the large supplies required

policy of your Directors to carry the large supplies required by our mills and the product of same, as also its investment at a most safe and conservative figure, but owing to Government requirements, and feeling the advisability of our shareholders realizing that proper provision has been made to take care of a sudden change in values, you will note that to take care of a sudden change in values, you will note that a Contingent Reserve Account has been established to provide against such a contingency. With flour and wheat from two to three times normal values, it is only natural that there should be some anxiety in the minds of our share-holders in this respect. This reserve, however, must be regarded as likely to be required for the purpose named. We profited by the advance to the present high prices, and as it is hardly possible for us to avoid some loss when normal values again prevail, and having in mind the different values again prevail, and having in mind the different matters referred to in this connection, it is well that proper provision be made and shown.

We continue to contribute largely to the Income and Business Profit Taxes, our contribution this year again exceeding the dividends paid to the shareholders of our ordinary stock. There has been practically no change in the holdings of our shareholders during the year, the average holdings being 34 shares.

The outlook for this year is hardly as promising as last. Firstly, for the reason that the Government has felt it necessary to adopt the use of the same quantity of substinecessary to adopt the use of the same quantity of substi-tutes for flour as is used by our Allizs, which means a reduc-tion in the use of wheat flour in Canada by some 20%. Secondly, the export outlook is not as bright as it was a year ago, but your Management feel confident of the main-temane of a striction with the theorem is the second seco tenance of a satisfactory return to the shareholders.

BALANCE STATEMENT, 31st AUGUST, 1918

LIABILITIES

AJOLIJ		The second secon	
Cash Accounts and Bills Receivable, after making provision for bad and doubtful Debts.	\$1,078,472.19 1,501,826.31	Accounts Payable (including Provision for War Tax for two years, 1917 and 1918) Provision for Bond Interest and Dividends to date	\$3,433,615.03 520,250.00
Stocks on hand of Wheat, Flour, Oatmeal, Coarse Grains,	1.462.916.02	Total Current Liabilities	3,953,865.03 253,644.91
Investments (including \$4,896,900.00 Dominion of Canada War Loars and Treasury Bills)	6,575,149.82	First Mortgage Bonds Capital Stock—Preferred	2,350,000.00 2,000,000.00
Total Active Assets. Investments for Fension Fund. Real Estate, Water Powers and Mill Plants in Montreal, Fort William, Winnipeg and Medicine Hat; Elevators in Manitoba, Sakutchewan and Alberta; Property in St. John, N.B., and Ottawa; Stable Plant and Offee Equipment. Goodwill, Trade Marks, Patent Rights, etc.		Common. Special Contingent Account. Profit and Less Account: Amount at Credit 31st August, 1917\$190,177.77 Profits for the year after payment of Bond Interest and making provision for War Ta: Flour Milling Profits\$832,910.50 Profits from other Sources and Investment In- come. 2000 - 20000 - 20000 - 2000	. 2,500,000.00 . 2,500,000.00 . 1,596,407.45
		Less-Dividends on Preferred and Common Stocks	4 1.330.592.61
	\$16,484,510.00		\$16,484,510.00
We have audited the books of the Compa	at Montres	I, Fort William, Wianipog and Modicine Hat for	the year

ending 31st August, 1918, and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required; and we certify that, in our opinion, the above Balance Sheet is properly drawn up, so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Company.

CREAK, CUSHING & HODGSON, Chartered Accountants.

THE CHRONICLE



THE CHRONICLE

BLUE GOOSE ELECTS OFFICERS.

The annual meeting of the Grand Nest of the Blue Goose was held in Chicago, Oct. 1, and the following officers were chosen for the coming year

Most Loyal Grand Gander, W. J. Sonnen-Chicago; Grand Supervisor of the Flock, John A. Hanson, St. Paul; Grand Custodian of the Gcslings, E. D. Marr, Kansas City; Grand Guardian of the Nest, A. R. Monroe, Chicago; Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, M. E. Hawxhurst, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Grand Wielder of the Gocse Quill, Faul E. Rudd, Milwaukee.

The new officers were installed by Past Most Loyal Grand Gander Benallack.

The annual report shows a membership of 2,130, a net increase of 98 during the year. It also showed that 152 members are in the service. Steps were taken to look after the business interests of the absent members. Each member entering the service is to designate two or three associates, who are to look especially after his business affairs, in accordance with the principles of the order, while a similar general obligation rests upon all the members.

ONE CLASS OF FUEL NOT SCARCE

While the State Fuel Administration is warning of probable fuel shortage during the coming winter, there is one class of fuel that will be plentiful beyond a shadow of a doubt. That consists of the houses in which we live and the buildings in which we transact our business and store our chattels. The pity of it is that this waste could be stopped by a "stitch in time." This journal is doing everything practicable to awaken the public to its opportunity for self-preservation and patriotic conservation of resources by preventing the careless fire. It's the little commonplace danger that needs attention. Think it over.

LIFE INSURANCE DIVIDENDS

A few, not many, life insurance companies now openly favour lower dividends to policyholders (one Iowa company even advocates omitting such dividends for 1919) to recompense the companies for lower security values, lesser rates of interest and the War's effect on death rates. It seems to be the opinion of most life insurance companies, however, that no reduction in policyholder's dividends is necessary for the present.



THE CHRONICLE

MONTREAL, OCTOBER 18, 1918

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E.'ROBERTS, Manager 701, LEWIS BUILDING, MONTREAL Branches: WINNIPEG CALGABY

C. A. WITHERS, General Manager TOBONTO BY VANCOUVER